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Halifax metro

ARE LITTLE LIBRARIES ELITIST? metroLIFE



Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017

High 9°C/Low 6°C Cloudy



Three-fourths of the award-winning punk band Like a Motorcycle in Halifax on Wednesday.
NICK HUBLEY/METRO

THAT'S SO *punk*

Halifax band pawning off East Coast Music Award for local charity

metroNEWS

DARTMOUTH SPORTSPLEX

Leave more time for the bus dash



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Those dropping off friends and family at the Dartmouth Bridge Terminal behind the Sportsplex will have to drive a little farther as major construction begins.

Work on an 18-month revitalization project for the Dartmouth Sportsplex starts Thursday, meaning a construction crew will be setting up their staging in the far right (east) corner of the parking lot by Thistle Street, eliminating 50 parking spots.

HRM spokesman Brendan Elliott said residents will have to drive farther into the parking lot to drop off their loved ones headed for the terminal, rather than stopping in the very first spot off of Thistle they usually take.

"It's important for people to see that there is a bit of an adjustment because many people don't leave much time to get to the bus," Elliott said in an interview.

"If there's even a minute or two of them being uncertain as to where they're supposed to go, that may cost them their bus."

The staging area is expected to remain for about a month, as work on a new front entrance begins.

Besides building a double gymnasium, other improvements include adding a new "aquatic feature" such as a splash pad to the pool, renovating the building's fitness centre and relocating the entrance to the second floor.

The Sportsplex closes to the public starting on May 29, with just the ice surface scheduled to reopen in the fall.



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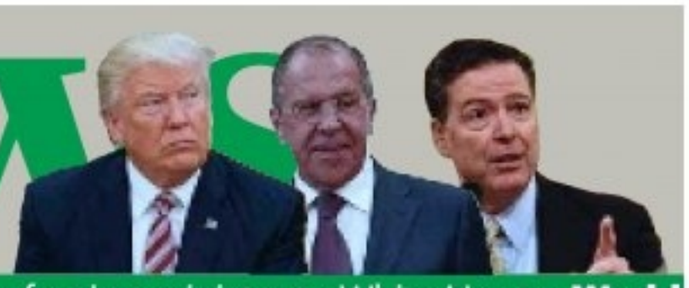
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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news



U.S. reacts to FBI director's firing as Trump welcomes Russian foreign minister to White House. **World**

Nova Scotia Votes



Fateh Ahmed plans to release his documentary about the impact of cuts to the film tax credit, Without Consultation, on May 20. NICK HUBLEY/FOR METRO

Film funding 'a failing system'

ARTS

Documentary on tax credit to be released as a 'warning'



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

When Premier Stephen McNeil dropped the writ for the spring election, one Halifax filmmaker decided to drop his own "warning."

Without Consultation, a documentary by Fateh Ahmed made over the past two and a half years, explores the Liberal's 2015 decision to replace the film tax credit with an incentive fund, and the fallout for people in the industry and the province itself.

"It's important for Nova Scotians ... Canadians, national and international citizens to be aware of how political decisions could truly impact an artist community very quickly - and it wouldn't take long to experience the ripple effects," Ahmed said in an interview.

While it may take longer in some industries to feel the effects of policy change, Ahmed said in less than a year of the tax cut replacement there were production houses and small businesses shutting down, many of the roughly 3,000 people in the industry lost their jobs, and young people moved on to other fields.

The film includes some video and media coverage of the speeches and protests around Province House at the time, Ahmed said, as well as interviews with actors like John Dunsworth of the Trailer Park Boys and Haven series, producers Ginny Jones Duzak and Maria MacNeil, and politicians like former Liberal Andrew Younger, business people, and crew members.

I think through time people truly started to witness the damage. Once it truly started affecting them, they're like 'you know what, I think we better speak now,'" Ahmed said.

Although Ahmed said he would have preferred to have the government perspective in the documentary, the Liberals never responded to multiple requests for a video interview or written statement.

Ahmed said he wanted to release his current version, made for the recent Emerging Lens Film Cultural Festival, online for May 20 so people could reflect back on the events of 2015 and learn about the difference between the tax credit and fund before voting on May 30.

A feature-length version will be out this September that tells the story through a more personal look at specific filmmakers and artists, Ahmed said.

While the Liberals have said the incentive fund is just as supportive to the industry, Ahmed says "absolutely not" since the tax credit was a "leveller" that allowed artists big and small to benefit, where the fund has a $10-million cap (raised to $16.9 million for 2017-18) and those with more capital simply have better chances to qualify.

While both NDP Leader Gary Burrill and PC Leader Jamie Baillie have promised to reinstate the film tax credit if elected, Ahmed said he doesn't want to dictate how people should vote.

"Just get a little more involved in the political process, because ultimately that's what shapes societies, that's what shapes the artistic environments that we live in."

Despite the challenges, Ahmed said the film ends on a hopeful note as filmmakers try to work within the industry that's left and try to make it better – while "warning" other provinces to "not repeat the same mistake.

POLITICS

Tories promise to spend $34 million to revive film tax credit

Nova Scotia's Progressive Conservatives are promising to bring back a refundable film tax credit if elected May 30, taking aim at the creative-industry workers the Tories need to win over if they hope to make gains in the vote-rich Halifax area.

Tory Leader Jamie Baillie said Wednesday he would spend $34 million to revive the credit in a bid to aid the film and TV industry.

Baillie said the industry was set back when the Liberals controversially axed the tax in the 2015 budget and that it needs a tax credit model that is predictable.

He conceded the amount for the new fund is "somewhat open-ended," and would likely be determined by market conditions.

"This is a projection of the potential we think exists in the industry," said Baillie. "We aren't just aiming to grab what we had and replace it; we want to see growth in the film industry because we know the government actually makes money from a thriving industry."

Baillie wouldn't say at what level the tax credit would be set under his party's plan, saying it will be worked out with industry: "I will say this, it will be in the same range as the one that was cancelled a few years ago."

The Tory announcement follows one last week from the NDP, which pledged a $23-million annual film tax credit, with an additional $10 million in the first year.

The former $24 million tax credit allowed qualifying productions to claim up to a maximum of 65 per cent of labour costs.

It was replaced by an incentive fund that provides base funding that is 25 per cent refundable for all production costs, including labour. Last month, the Liberal government tabled a budget that set the annual fund at $16.9 million.

Erika Beatty, executive director of Screen Nova Scotia, said a Price WaterhouseCoopers study it commissioned estimated the industry contributed $180 million to the provincial GDP in 2014, which she said was a banner year for productions.

Beatty said in the year following the removal of the tax credit, the production volume dropped to about half that number, but subsequently rebounded "significantly" to about 75 per cent of that figure in 2016.

Regardless of who wins the election, Beatty said it will be important to craft incentives that fit the industry's needs and recognize its importance to the economy. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Members of Nova Scotia's film and television industry protest outside the legislature on April 15, 2015. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Education group critical of Libs plan

A group representing child care centres in Nova Scotia says Stephen McNeil's Liberals failed to consult with the sector in developing a plan for pre-primary care in the province.

The Liberals unveiled the plan in their budget and detailed it on the campaign trail last week.

It would be a pre-primary program with classrooms of 25 pre-schoolers and two early childhood educators. Starting this fall, the program would put 750 four-year-olds in classrooms in 30 locations across the province, mostly in existing schools.

After full implementation in four years, McNeil said the program would cost $49.4 million annually, and save parents who would otherwise have to pay for child care $10,000.

Let the experts in Early Childhood do their job.
Early Childhood Education Action group

NDP REACTS

NDP leader Gary Burrill acknowledged the importance of early childhood education last week, and said it was "darn funny" the Liberals were just getting to it at the end of their term.

The Early Childhood Education Action group listed a number of questions in a news release Wednesday, asking where that money would come from, where the children would go, which children it supports, what supports would be in place for children with special needs, and more.

"Current child care centres are already offering (more) than this program! So this is not new! Let the experts in Early Childhood do their job," the release said.

"The Government (has not consulted) with the Childcare Sector as to what is best for children."

METRO, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

CAMPAIGN DIARY | PARTY PROMISES

Burrill announces $60M for senior long-term care

NDP Leader Gary Burrill used a campaign stop at a Halifax nursing home Wednesday to announce $60-million over four years for long-term care for seniors.

Burrill said in a province with one of the country's highest populations of seniors, people are waiting too long to secure beds in nursing homes, with the average wait time in 14 counties reaching 200 days. He said his plan would create about 500 new long-term beds.

"When this goes beyond a month and becomes a matter of six to eight months or, as is not rare in Nova Scotia, up towards a year, this is a very serious problem," Burrill said.

"What we're saying is, this isn't a problem without a solution."

Burrill said he would also restore an $8-million Liberal cut to seniors' nursing homes, freeze pharmacare premiums and lobby for a national pharmacare plan.

Liberals pledge to expand caregiver benefit program

During a campaign stop in Sydney, Stephen McNeil said the Liberals would expand eligibility for the caregiver benefit program through a $25 million investment over four years.

The program gives about $400 a month to those caring for people with severe dementia.

McNeil said the program would be expanded to include 400 people who care for those with lower levels of dementia this year and another 1,200 people caring for those with mental illness in 2018.

He said benefit levels wouldn't change.

"That will stay the same, just that it will be available to more people, approximately 1,600 more families will be eligible for it."

McNeil said a Liberal government would also spend $2.25 million over three years to increase support for medical consultation by using video technology.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Lobster boats head from West Dover. Restaurants, tourists and residents will happily pay for quality fish when they can. But without an integrated local supply chain that any new business or restaurant can tap into, much of the fish gets sold way below its potential value. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Green economy should be at centre



Tristan Cleveland
For Metro | Halifax

In his speech at last year's Stepping Up Conference, Acadia University president and Nova Scotia Commission on Building Our New Economy chair Ray Ivany told the crowd we can't make Nova Scotia sustainable unless we get the economy going to pay for it.

He had it backwards. Greening our economy is itself an economic growth strategy, and should be at the centre of this year's provincial election. It's a matter of getting better value from our resources and wasting less.

Consider just three examples.

1. FISH

When our fishers sell their catch on the international market, it doesn't matter if it's fresh, sustainably caught, or handled carefully to avoid bruising. If it's haddock, it sells for the going price for haddock, as if haddock were as interchangeable as lumps of coal.

Fish are far from interchangeable, however, and there are restaurants, tourists, and residents who will happily pay for quality when they can. Local businesses have begun to spring up, such as Afishionado Fishmongers and Hooked, that work directly with fishers to get fresh catch to buyers, but that's just a start.

We don't yet have an integrated local supply chain that any new business or restaurant could tap into. It's crazy: since it's so hard to sell locally, much of our fish gets sold way below its potential value. At such low prices, sustainable, small-scale fishing boats can't compete with the massive drag-netters, who make money by just selling our future in massive volumes.

19
The number of days until the election on May 30.

2. FORESTRY

In Nova Scotia, a lot of our quality wood is being squandered to make things like chipboard, toilet paper and biomass. Meanwhile, two local hardwood flooring manufacturers, Finewood Flooring and Rivers Bend, were forced to close in part for lack of consistent access to good hardwood.

We're treating our forests like our fish, selling it way undervalue. If we devoted more of our Crown lands for high-quality, value-added forest products we could produce more jobs and we could reduce the ecological impact on the forest and wildlife. By using methods like selection harvesting it would also let trees grow bigger, again increasing their value.

This week, Stephen McNeil promised to conduct yet another review of forestry practices if re-elected. That's great, but he should just implement the 2011 Natural Resource Strategy, which already included a massive science-based review of the industry. It committed the province to 50 per cent reductions in clear-cutting and more support for selective harvesting.

3. COASTS

Sea level is rising and erosion is speeding up. To avoid huge economic waste, it'd make sense not to build homes in places we already know will fall into the ocean or get flooded.

We can also slow down erosion by using more local vegetation adapted to holding our coasts together, which happens to also be great for biodiversity.

I'm excited to say that this week the Liberals announced they're going to create a Coastal Protection Act. It's the right thing to do both for the environment and to avoid losing growth to disaster.

Smart, green economic policy is smart thing to do right now, not something we should do someday when we have the money for it. All the parties should make green prosperity central to their pitch for our future.

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The award-winning punk band Like a Motorcycle in Halifax Wednesday. NICK HUBLEY/FOR METRO

Punk band puts award on the block

LIKE A MOTORCYCLE

Proceeds will go towards Phoenix House



Cody McEachern
For Metro | Halifax

KT Lamond, Michelle Skelding, Kim Carson and David Casey sat in the stands at the back of the Harbour Station arena during the 2017 East Coast Music Awards gala.

Their punk band Like A Motorcycle was nominated for Rising Star Recording of the Year.

As awards were handed out, Lamond looked around the area they were seated. "Guys, look where we're sitting. There's no way we're going to win," she said.

Shortly after, their category came up, and the announcer leaned towards the mic. "The rising star recording of the year award goes to 'High Hopes,' Like A Motorcycle," he said.

Surprised, Skelding jumped from her seat, vaulted the arena walls and rushed towards the stage with the rest of the band following.

Now the band is using their award to help at-risk youth in the punkest way possible — pawning it off for whatever money they can get, and donating it all.

"Initially we were like, 'Lets trade it for whisky,'" said Lamond, guitarist and vocalist for the band. "Then the more we thought about it, we figured out we could actually do something good with it instead."

The group announced they were auctioning off the ECMA award on their Facebook page Sunday, and the bids quickly shot up, hitting $600 in three days.

The money raised from the auction will be donated to the Phoenix House, a support program for at-risk youth in Halifax.

While the band didn't expect to win the award, they are grateful as it gives them the opportunity to help raise money for a good cause.

"It was very unexpected," said Skelding, drummer and vocalist for the band. "It was cool to be acknowledged I guess, but what we are doing with the award now is beyond all the ECMA hype. It's the good we can do that we couldn't have done if we didn't win."

The band is pushing for donations as well, and has also received an electric guitar to donate to Phoenix House.

"We want anyone who can help to support this," said Lamond. "Whether it's a $10 donation on their website or if you have some old bongos laying around, the more people we can get involved the better."

HOW TO HELP

Bids can be placed at musicforphoenix.ca, and other donations can be made either by contacting the group at likeamotorcycle@gmail.com or at phoenixyouth.ca.

TRIAL

Testimony to continue, jury to return in Sandeson case



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

Testimony is expected to continue in William Sandeson's first-degree murder trial on Thursday.

Sandeson, 24, is accused of killing Taylor Samson, 22, in August 2015. Samson's body was never found.

Earlier this week in Nova Scotia Supreme Court, the jury of seven women and seven men heard testimony from Sandeson's former neighbour, Pookiel McCabe, who lived across the hall from him in August 2015.

McCabe testified that he saw a bloody, unmoving man in a chair in Sandeson's apartment, along with blood on his floor just after hearing a loud bang on Aug. 15, 2015 — the night Samson was last seen alive.

The jury has also seen surveillance footage that shows Samson walking into Sandeson's apartment that night.

The jury was not present on Wednesday as the court dealt with a legal issue in its absence. The trial resumes at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday.

You're on the move, Charlie Brown

PROGRAMMING

Halifax-based DHX buys Peanuts rights for US $345M

The Peanuts gang of cartoon characters created by Charles Schulz is getting a new home at a Halifax-based entertainment company under a US$345-million deal announced Wednesday.

DHX Media will add the Peanuts and Strawberry Shortcake brands to its other properties, which include rights to the Teletubbies, Inspector Gadget, Degrassi, and other programming for children and young audiences.

The agreement has the blessing of Schulz's widow, whose family will continue to have a 20 per cent share of the rights to the Peanuts cartoon and animation franchise.

"DHX Media feels like a perfect fit for Peanuts," Jean Schulz said in a joint statement issued by the company.

The proposed deal has been approved by the boards of DHX Media and Iconix Brand Group, which owns 80 per cent of the Peanuts brand and 100 per cent of the Strawberry Shortcake brand.

Before Charlie Brown, his dog Snoopy, and their friends can join DHX Media, the agreement also requires various regulatory approvals and completion of a financing package.

DHX has hired RBC Capital Markets and Jefferies Finance to provide a fully underwritten debt financing covering the purchase price and refinance substantially all of the company's debt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DHX MEDIA

The company also announced Wednesday that its third-quarter revenue and profit were lower than last year. Revenue fell seven per cent to $78 million and net income dropped 25 per cent to $7.6 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Charlie Brown and friends have a new home. CONTRIBUTED

MONCTON

Mountie recounts massacre 'chaos'

A Mountie remembered standing alone in a school parking lot "waiting to be shot again" after being caught in the crossfire of Justin Bourque's shooting rampage.

Const. Martine Benoit told the RCMP's Labour Code trial Wednesday that she couldn't recall anyone being in charge as confused officers scrambled to respond to the June 2014 Moncton massacre that left three Mounties dead and two others wounded.

Benoit said smoke billowed from her engine as Bourque fired multiple rounds into her police cruiser.

"It was kind of a chaos situation," Benoit told Moncton provincial court. "My engine was gone. I couldn't go anywhere."

Benoit said she called for back-up, but wasn't sure if the radio transmission went through because her vehicle was so damaged.

She testified that another officer, Const. Eric Dubois, came to her aid and they took cover behind his car. As the gunfire resumed, Dubois told her that Const. Fabrice Gevaudan had died, said Benoit.

The RCMP is accused of failing to provide members and supervisors with the appropriate information, instruction, equipment, and training in an active-shooter event.

Bourque, who was targeting police in an effort to start an anti-government rebellion, was sentenced to life in prison with no parole eligibility for 75 years after pleading guilty to three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> "There were bullets flying everywhere."
> Const. Martine Benoit

CRIME

Cops searching for stabbing suspects

Police are looking for two people after a stabbing and attempted robbery in Dartmouth.

In a news release issued Wednesday, Halifax police say they were called to Jackson Road at 11:11 a.m. and found an 18-year-old man with a stab wound on his arm.

He told police he was walking in the area when two male suspects tried to rob him.

"He advised the males he didn't have anything and was subsequently slashed by one of the suspects," the release said.

The man told police the suspects, who he didn't know, ran off towards Victoria Road, and he was taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The first suspect is described as white, between 16 and 20 years old, and 5'6" tall with a thin build. The second is described as black, between 16 and 20 years old, and 6' tall with a thin build. Both suspects were wearing black clothing and had their faces covered.

Police are asking anyone with information to call them or Crime Stoppers.

METRO HALIFAX



Can Mexico and Canada weather a NAFTA storm?

TRADE

As countries have grown closer, irritants have arisen

To hear Pierre Alarie tell it, Mexico and Canada are like two weary travellers seeking shelter from the same storm — the fierce bluster from Donald Trump's frequent criticism of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The two nations will be better able to withstand that storm if they stand together, the Canadian ambassador to Mexico declared last month during a speech to a business gathering in that country's capital city.

Alarie's message, Mexican and Canadian officials say, reflects a deep level of co-operation between the two countries — something that, given the challenging three-way dynamics of North American politics, hasn't always been the case in the past.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto during the APEC Summit in Lima, Peru, last November. THE CANADIAN PRESS

It may not be the case in the future, either.

If push comes to shove, some observers warn, Canada will have to jettison Mexico and pursue its own bilateral side deal with the U.S. if the NAFTA talks degenerate.

A strong, newly negotiated three-way NAFTA is the goal, said Maryscott Greenwood, head of the Canadian American Business Council. But strained relations between Trump and Mexico could well make that difficult, she acknowledged.

"If it's politically impossible … for the U.S. to move forward with a comprehensive economic relationship with Mexico for various reasons — Mexican politics, U.S. politics — then we think, 'Don't be delayed by that; move forward with a bilateral negotiation,'" Greenwood recently told the House of Commons foreign affairs committee.

Not surprisingly, Mexico's political leaders, like Tourism Minister Enrique de la Madrid Cordero, warn against abandoning NAFTA's unique three-way nature.

Canada and Mexico should be working together to modernize the 23-year-old trade deal, not settling for a series of bilateral side deals where one country throws the other under the bus to serve its own interests, he said.

The two countries have grown closer over the years, but other irritants have arisen, notably the visa requirement that Stephen Harper's Conservative government imposed on Mexican travellers in 2009. It was lifted last year by the Liberals.

Officials from either side of the Canada-Mexico divide, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to discuss matters of diplomatic sensitivity, say the lines of communication between the two countries are always open. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FEDERAL COURT

Citizenship Act terms violate rights: Judge

Stripping new Canadians of their citizenship without giving them a proper chance to explain themselves is a violation of their rights, a Federal Court judge declared Wednesday.

In a key decision, Judge Jocelyne Gagne struck down provisions of the Citizenship Act enacted by the former Conservative government under Stephen Harper, saying they conflict with principles of fundamental justice.

The decision comes in eight cases — considered as test cases — that challenged the constitutionality of the changes made in May 2015. Those amendments barred people from going to court to fight the loss of their Canadian status, in some cases leaving them stateless, over alleged lies on their residency or citizenship applications.

The changes also barred people from reapplying for Canadian citizenship for 10 years after revocation.

"Since there is no right of appeal from a revocation decision of the minister under the amended act, the need for procedural fairness is all the more acute," Gagne wrote in her ruling. THE CANADIAN PRESS



A special ceremony at Mohawk College in Hamilton welcomed 40 new citizens last October. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FLOODING

More heavy rain expected in central Quebec over the weekend

While water levels continued their slow decline in some parts of Quebec on Wednesday, the province's environment minister warned the situation could deteriorate this weekend because of heavy rain.

David Heurtel said the central Quebec region of Mauricie is expected to bear the brunt of the precipitation.

"We're looking at considerable rainfall on the weekend," he told a news conference.

"Depending on the region, we're talking about 20 to 40 millimetres but in Mauricie the impact will be even greater, so we should expect another tough weekend there."

> **We know it will take days before it recedes totally — maybe weeks.**
> Montreal fire Chief Bruno Lachance

Heurtel said the combination of rain, melting snow in the St-Maurice River basin and rising tides could prove to be damaging in the region.

Trois-Rivieres resident Patrice Bourassa, who has been co-ordinating volunteer efforts in Mauricie, said citizens in some of the worst-hit regions are losing energy and patience.

"It's reached the point they have to leave their homes in the morning and take a canoe to their vehicle 500 metres away because it's too flooded," he said in a telephone interview.

Bourassa said the Facebook page he created has already drawn 1,200 members, with many spending the last few days building dikes, packing sandbags and helping citizens.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Americans react to firing

INVESTIGATION

Abrupt ousting of FBI director Comey draws sharp criticism

Americans could be forgiven if they're feeling a bit whiplashed by recent events in the nation's capital. Less than a week after House Republicans voted to dismantle Barack Obama's health care law, President Donald Trump abruptly fired FBI Director James Comey — only the second time in history that an FBI chief has been removed from office.

Then, on Wednesday, Trump met with Russia's top diplomat amid ongoing FBI and congressional probes of Russian meddling in last year's presidential election and possible contacts between the Trump campaign and Russia.

As voters processed the latest batch of news out of Washington, their opinions on Comey's dramatic sacking seemed to divide along familiar partisan lines: Republicans and Trump supporters saw it as necessary, while Democrats viewed it with suspicion.

Pennsylvania resident Tom Stump took a different tack, urging people to slow down and let the facts on Comey develop. "I'd say the jury's still out," he said.



Hundreds rally to protest against President Donald Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey outside the White House Wednesday in Washington, DC. GETTY IMAGES

'I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH HIM'

As a Democrat who voted for Hillary Clinton, Loretta Shollenberger is no fan of Comey. She believes he helped decide the November election for Trump when he reopened the investigation into Clinton's email practices in the waning days of the campaign.

But Shollenberger believes Trump's firing of Comey had nothing to do with his handling of the probe.

"It's bogus," said Shollenberger, 69, from Mohrsville, Pennsylvania. "I think they're getting a little too close with his ties to Russia."

Trump hoodwinked his supporters, she said, but "he doesn't have me buffaloed. I can see right through him."

Shollenberger said she's concerned about the direction of the country and places blame squarely at the feet of the president.

"I would like to see him impeached and locked up," she said.

'KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT'

Tom Hier, 54, a Navy veteran and disabled security officer from Valrico, Florida, fully supports Trump's decision on Comey.

"As the FBI director, you've got to know when to say stuff and know when to keep your mouth shut," he said.

Hier was in downtown Bartow, Florida, on Wednesday for the campaign kickoff of Republican gubernatorial candidate Adam Putnam. Other Republicans at the event, including 77-year-old retiree Bill Ockington of The Villages, expressed similar views.

"But I'm surprised it happened," he said, "because everything is still up in the air."

By "everything," he meant the Russia probe.

"I think that should continue," he said.

DETAILS

Days before he was fired by Donald Trump, FBI Director James Comey requested more resources to pursue his investigation into Russia's election meddling and the possible involvement of Trump associates, U.S. officials said Wednesday, fueling concerns that Trump was trying to undermine a probe that could threaten his presidency. It was unclear whether word of the request ever made its way to Trump.

'NATIONAL TRAGEDY'

Oklahoma City bookstore owner Charles Martin supported Hillary Clinton in November, but he's tried to remain hopeful during the Trump presidency.

But Trump's latest move has him worried.

Firing the FBI director amid an ongoing investigation into possible contacts between the Trump campaign and Russia is un-American and something expected in a "strong-arm regime," said Martin, 40.

"What is unsettling about this is it looks like we might be getting to the end of what's been a national embarrassment and starting to approach the cusp of a national tragedy," Martin said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICS

Trump hosts Russian foreign minister, envoy at White House

President Donald Trump on Wednesday welcomed Vladimir Putin's top diplomat to the White House for Trump's highest level face-to-face contact with a Russian government official since he took office in January.

The talks came a day after Trump fired the FBI director who was overseeing an investigation into Russia's alleged interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov entered through the West Executive entrance, out of range for reporters to ask questions. Also attending was Sergey Kislyak, the Russian ambassador to the U.S. who is at the centre of many of the Trump administration's early Russia-related woes.

The Russian Foreign Ministry tweeted a photo of Trump and Lavrov shaking hands in the Oval Office, and another of Trump and Kislyak. The White House called reporters into the Oval Office around the time of the meeting, but Lavrov and Kislyak had already left. And, in a surprise, Trump greeted the media with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

In brief remarks to journalists after the meeting, Trump said his decision to abruptly fire FBI Director James Comey the day before his meeting with Lavrov did not affect the meeting "at all."

Earlier Wednesday, Lavrov met with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who said the get-together was a chance for the two to "continue our dialogue" and "exchange of views" that they started last month in Moscow. During that trip, Tillerson said relations with Russia were at a low and needed to be rebuilt.

A Russian plan to stabilize Syria after more than six years of civil war was the most urgent foreign policy topic on the Trump-Lavrov agenda.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUCLEAR

Concerns over nuclear waste sites

The collapse of a tunnel containing radioactive waste at the Hanford nuclear weapons complex underscored what critics have long been saying: that the toxic remnants of the Cold War are being stored in haphazard and unsafe conditions, and time is running out to deal with the problem.

"Unfortunately, the crisis at Hanford is far from an isolated incident," said Kevin Kamps of the anti-nuclear group Beyond Nuclear.

For instance, at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, which opened in the 1950s and produced plutonium and tritium, the government is labouring to clean up groundwater contamination along with 40 million gallons of radioactive liquid waste stored in tanks that are decades past their projected lifespan. The job is likely to take decades.

At Hanford, in addition to the tunnel collapse discovered on Tuesday, dozens of underground storage tanks, some dating to World War II, are leaking highly radioactive materials.

The problem is that the U.S. government rushed to build nuclear weapons during the Cold War with little thought given to how to permanently dispose of the resulting waste.

Safely removing it now is proving enormously expensive, slow-going, extraordinarily dangerous, and so complex that much of the technology required simply does not exist. The cleanup has also been plagued with setbacks both political and technical.

For example, the nation's only underground nuclear waste repository, in New Mexico, closed to new shipments in 2014 after an improperly packed drum of waste ruptured. The site just recently reopened.

The U.S. Department of Energy spends about $6 billion a year on managing waste left from the production of nuclear weapons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Global luxury homes sales cooler: Christie's

REAL ESTATE

Hong Kong mansion priciest at $270 million

Global luxury home sales cooled off in 2016 for the second consecutive year, even with a record number of homes selling for more than $100 million.

A report released Wednesday by Christie's International Real Estate shows that sales of homes priced at $1 million US or more edged up about 1 per cent worldwide last year.

That represents a sharp slowdown from 2015, when luxury home sales climbed 8 per cent, and from 2014, when sales vaulted 16 per cent.

Despite the sluggish sales growth, Christie's says luxury home prices continued to rise last year, increasing about 2 per cent from a year earlier. And for the first time, 10 homes sold for more than $100 million each. The priciest sale, a mansion located in The Peak neighbourhood in Hong Kong, fetched more than $270 million.



The Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles was among the priciest homes to sell in 2016. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The Playboy Mansion was also among the priciest homes to sell last year, bringing in $105 million. The home, which is located on a 5-acre estate in Los Angeles where countless celebrity-laden parties have raged, was originally bought in 1971 by Hugh Hefner for $1.05 million.

Twenty-four of the markets in the report posted a sharp drop in sales last year, while another 19 posted solid gains. Sales were essentially flat in the rest.

Even as the global economy strengthened, sales were likely held back as wealthy buyers and sellers opted to take wait-and-see approach to the geopolitical uncertainty that shaped much of 2016, including Britain's vote to leave the European Union, new restrictions on Chinese capital outflows, the U.S. presidential election and Russian sanctions.

Luxury home sales sank 67 per cent in the U.K. from a year earlier, while sales slipped 4 per cent in the U.S. and slid 29 per cent in markets in the Asia-Pacific region. In contrast, sales climbed 20 per cent in Europe and 44 per cent in Canada.

Too much inventory and sluggish sales wasn't a problem in Hong Kong, which topped Christie's index of top luxury property markets.

London, which had always held the top spot, slipped to second, followed by New York, Los Angeles and Singapore.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUCKING TREND

- Toronto sales prices posted the biggest gain, 20 per cent.
- Toronto led a separate gauge of the hottest luxury markets. Its luxury home sales were nearly double what they were in 2015.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Pot not a threat to booze sales: Study

The recreational marijuana industry is expected to take a sip of less than one per cent initially out of annual Canadian alcohol sales once it becomes legal, a new analysis says.

The Anderson Economic Group, a business consulting firm in New York, says legalization of marijuana would sap $160 million out of the country's $22.1 billion booze sector, rising as use of the drug expands.

The beer market, which is worth about $9.2 billion, is anticipated to take a $70-million hit in the first year of marijuana legalization, according to the Anderson Economic Group.

"It won't affect spending patterns necessarily the first year to the degree where individuals' buying habits will change overnight," said Peter Schwartz, an Anderson consultant and editor of its biannual Cannabis Market Report.

A Deloitte report has estimated that the Canadian market for marijuana could be worth up to around $22.6 billion a year, including about $4.9 billion to $8.7 billion from the sale of the substance, with the rest coming from the ancillary market including growers, testing labs and security.

Analyst Vivien Azer of U.S.-based research firm Cowen and Company is anticipating the alcohol industry could be under substantial pressure over the next decade if young people continue to take a pass on drinking.

In a report released last month, Azer said just under 82 per cent of 18- to 29-year-olds in Ontario consumed alcohol in 2015, down 5.5 percentage points since 2008, while marijuana use has been steady at around 34 to 36 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HEALTH

Company recalls breaded chicken

Federal health officials say Maple Leaf Foods Inc. is recalling various breaded chicken products because they may contain a toxin produced by Staphylococcus bacteria.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says the affected products, which were sold in Ontario and Quebec, include Maple Leaf brand Chicken Breast Strips in 840-gram packages with a best-before date of April 20, 2018.

Chicken burgers under the Sufra Halal and Mina Halal brand names in 828-gram packages are also being recalled.

The CFIA says food contaminated with Staphylococcus toxin may not look or smell spoiled and that the toxin produced by the bacteria is not easily destroyed at normal cooking temperatures.

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Safe Space
New episode May 12 featuring Jen Agg and Rebecca Kohler

EMMA TEITEL ON OLD MILLENNIALS



A millennial is anybody on this planet aged 18-34, an enormous gap, both psychologically and practically — yet media paint us with a massively broad brush.

This week in news about everyone's least favourite demographic (hint: they're under 40, and word has it, they're ingrates) we learned the following: According to Vogue, "Millennial men want their wives to stay at home." According to the Washington Examiner, "Fights over Trump drive couples, especially millennials, to split up." And, says Forbes: millennials are turning to "apps for financial clarity."

So it goes that every week produces a fresh news cycle about what millennials do and don't do with little context about who we actually are. And who we are is an important question when publishing stories about millions of people, some of whom are separated in age by almost 20 years.

After all, a millennial is anybody on this planet aged 18-34, an enormous gap, both psychologically and practically. It is the difference between adolescence and adulthood, financial dependence and freedom, and at the risk of being crude, cleaning up your own vomit after a night out and cleaning up your infant's after many a night in.

Yet media continue to paint with a massively broad brush a demographic that runs the gamut from teenagers who have never heard of Kurt Cobain to 34-year-old moms who can tell you exactly where they were the day he died.

Millennials aren't just a generation derided; we are generation divided.

"There is a lot of variation in experience and attitudes in the millennial generation," says Jean M. Twenge, psychologist and author of Generation Me and the forthcoming book iGen, about young people born in the mid-90s and onwards.

Old millennials didn't emerge from the womb taking selfies.

For example, there are old millennials (those of us — myself included — born before 1995) and young millennials (those born between 1995 and 1999). Old millennials came of age when Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie were famous for being famous; young millennials grew up watching the significantly more voluptuous Kardashian clan (no doubt just as vapid, but arguably far better TV for anyone with body image issues).



Millennials run the gamut from teenagers who have never heard of Kurt Cobain, to 34-year-old moms who can tell you exactly where they were the day he died, writes Emma Teitel. AP PHOTO

When old millennials think something is cool we say it's "sick." When young millennials think something is cool or exciting, they say it's "lit" or "fire." Old millennial women plucked their eyebrows to oblivion when they were in high school; young millennial women went au naturel.

But perhaps the most profound difference between old and young millennials is technology.

Young millennials, argues Twenge, or "iGen" as she refers to them, never knew adolescence without smartphones and social media. The iPhone, introduced in 2007, permeated their teenage social lives from beginning to end.

But for old millennials like me (I'm 28, I graduated from high school in 2007) social media and smartphone technology appeared smack-dab in the middle of our adolescence and college years.

When I was in high school, nobody had a smartphone. Instead, thanks to a newly invented social media website called Facebook, digital cameras blew up in popularity. From 2004 onwards, house parties in my neighbourhood became overrun with teenage girls wearing cameras around their necks, snapping photos of partygoers and then uploading them to Facebook hours later.

Many people found this new social surveillance trend annoying and invasive, especially if they had strict parents and didn't want to be caught on camera drinking beer. I once threw a house party with a "no digital camera" policy because I didn't want a photographic record of the mess I made while my parents were away. (Of course, nobody listened to me.)

The point being: old millennials didn't emerge from the womb taking selfies. We were forced to rapidly adapt to a social media culture, and many of us didn't — and still don't — want to.

Not even Drake, apparently.

Last year, in an essay for the Ringer, a sports and pop culture website, writer Lindsay Zoladz wondered if Drake, 30, is less prolific on social media than his 24-year-old rap contemporary Chance the Rapper, precisely because he is an "old millennial."

"Drake feels a little uneasy about it (social media) because he's old enough to remember what human interactions were like before it came along," writes Zoladz.

In fact, Twenge says that many older millennials actually have more in common with members of Generation X when it comes to how they use and perceive technology than they do with younger millennials. (In other words, Drake's feelings about Twitter and Facebook are probably closer aligned with Ja Rule's than they are with Chance the Rapper's.)

Why does this distinction matter? Well, moving away from Drake (who doesn't have to worry about being underpaid and overworked) it matters because old millennials, those of us in our late 20s and early 30s, make up a vast segment of the young workforce. And the popular myth that we are preternaturally obsessed with technology renders us vulnerable to exploitation because our employers — most of whom are baby boomers and Gen-Xers — assume we don't mind being attached to our phones and laptops 24 hours a day.

They assume that, like the digital natives who comprise the younger population of our demographic, we came of age online like it was no big deal. But we didn't. We came of age minding our own business, until a new technology changed our lives almost overnight.

And many of us remain just as uneasy about that change as our elders do.

Emma Teitel is a national affairs columnist for the Toronto Star.

Meredith case ought to be a wake up call for Parliament Hill



Vicky Mochama
Metro

Don Meredith may be gone from the Hill, but the atmosphere that enabled him is still a concern for women.

When Ms. M decided to report her sexual relationship with Sen. Meredith to authorities, the police told her although a case like hers comes with a publication ban on her name, "her identity would be known to anyone who attended court or examined the court file," according to The Toronto Star.

Instead, she chose to report to the Senate ethics officer, who offered her a cloak of confidentiality. (The ethics officer, believing a crime may have occurred, notified the police who asked the Senate to suspend its investigation. After four months, Ottawa police stopped the investigation without laying charges.)

Though not a Hill staffer herself, Ms. M chose to speak to Star reporter Kevin Donovan after hearing other media reports that Sen. Meredith was under investigation for sexual harassment in the workplace: "She was concerned that the investigators would not believe what the former staff members were alleging and she wanted to add her voice to the story."

Her bravery and fortitude are beyond commendable.

Her story, however, is part of the problem and future of Parliament Hill.

For all we hear about "men in power," the halls of government in Ottawa are female-dominated. Female staffers and volunteers are the backbone and engine of the legislative branch. Many are young, ambitious, and for those reasons, vulnerable.

Were that not enough, the systems of accountability can be unclear. To whom does a young staffer report their MP? Or their chief of staff? Or a fellow staffer?

The viable options can differ from party to party, which makes it even harder for young staffers. In a three-part series, the Hill Times reported on this dynamic: "Even if someone does report, they may be reporting the harassment to either their own MP or one of their MP's colleagues, through the whip's office, though the House chief human resources officer is also a reporting avenue."

In 2014, the House of Commons launched a harassment policy. And while this led to more complaints being filed, there are also many that exist outside of the House's jurisdiction, yet entirely within their culture.

A VICE essay by former staffer Beisan Zubi showed how the culture of Parliament Hill can deter someone from reporting sexual harassment. From lobbyist parties to bar nights with colleagues to one-on-one meetings, being both collegial and ambitious can put workers on the Hill in danger.

Ms. M's bravery in holding the Senator accountable must be met with an equally bold response.

The bubble of the Hill ought to make way for a cultural change and policies that ensure the safety of its most vulnerable workers.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news



Academy Award winner Steve McQueen will direct an authorized documentary about Tupac Shakur

‘I wanted the reader to be stuck in there and almost suffocate’



Aid worker Christophe André’s kidnapping ordeal is portrayed in comic book style in Guy Delisle’s claustrophobic Hostage. CONTRIBUTED

BOOKS

Quebec cartoonist captures the agony of being kidnapped

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



Christophe André, an administrator working in the Caucasus with the humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières, was sleeping one night when a group of men burst into his bedroom, threw a sack over his head and took him into captivity.

He was held in a series of bare apartments, his arm chained above his head to a radiator, unaware of what his kidnappers wanted, until he escaped 111 days later in Chechnya, barefooted, weak and malnourished.

André’s abduction took place 20 years ago, early in the summer of 1997, but kidnapping remains an occupational hazard for employees of non-governmental organizations like MSF.



In some politically volatile countries like Somalia, Syria and Afghanistan, kidnapping is almost a rite of passage.

Quebec-born cartoonist Guy Delisle — who now lives in France where he is considered a celebrity artist — remembers reading a newspaper interview with André after his escape. Delisle was captivated by the story because most people who have returned from a kidnapping don’t want to talk about their experiences.

But Delisle was struck by André’s openness and a quote where he said, “He felt like a football player that scored the last goal and won the match.”

The story also had a deep personal connection for Delisle. His wife Nadège is a former administrator with MSF, and his experiences travelling with their family for her job is the subject of two of his acclaimed graphic novels, Burma Chronicles and Jerusalem: Chronicles from the Holy City.

When Delisle initially met André in person, he was full of questions, and took many notes even before they left the restaurant.

“I didn’t think he wanted to go into detail, but he was talking very freely about the whole thing, and he gave us the whole story from beginning to end,” says Delisle, who immediately suggested to André they turn his memories into a comic.

André had no desire to write a book about the experience but agreed and provided more recordings and documents. Delisle began their interview process, and the tough work of illustrating a story where most of the action happens in someone’s head.

Hostage — which Delisle started drawing in 2003 and is now being released in English by Montreal publisher Drawn & Quarterly (translated by Helge Dascher) — is a nail-biter of a tale told completely from André’s point of view.

As André’s captivity stretches out over months, Delisle ratchets up the tension with repetitive linework, a gloomy grey palette and tightly boxed-in panels, which just adds to the overwhelming sense of confinement. In developing the story, Delisle even took a few tips from old interviews with the master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock.

“I wanted the reader to be stuck there, just like Christophe was, then turn the page and almost suffocate,” says Delisle. “There are so many pages where you want to escape, but it’s not that easy in 450 pages.”

As André’s body gets weaker, the earlier fantasies of returning home for his sister’s wedding and his own homecoming seem impossible.

But then comes his incredible movie-worthy escape, thanks to a door left fortuitously open. Delisle suggests that while readers can imagine themselves in André’s life-or-death predicament, or be confident that they would run or fight, it’s nearly impossible to know one’s reaction under all that physical and emotional stress.

“It’s really hard to imagine what you would do, because you really do have to be in that situation to realize that you can do crazy things and you are much more than you think,” says Delisle.

“Christophe is an administrator, not an adventure guy. It really is the story of an ordinary guy in an extraordinary situation.”

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Editor quits over cultural appropriation column

Writer and editor Hal Niedzviecki has resigned as editor of Write, the Writers’ Union of Canada magazine, after outrage sparked by an opinion piece titled Winning the Appropriation Prize he wrote in an issue devoted to Indigenous writing.

In it, he states that “I don’t believe in cultural appropriation. In my opinion, anyone, anywhere, should be encouraged to imagine other peoples, other cultures, other identities.”

He notes that most Canadian literature is written by people who are “white and middle-class” and exhorts them to look outside of their own community and write about “what you don’t know” in an effort to “explore the lives of people who aren’t like you.”

“Set your sights on the big goal: Win the Appropriation Prize,” he notes in the piece which appears under the label Writer’s Prompt.

Niedzviecki, who is also the founder and editor of Broken Pencil magazine, went on to reference the Indigenous writers whose work fills this issue of the magazine: “Indigenous writers, buffeted by history and circumstance, so often must write from what they don’t know . . . They are on the vanguard, taking risks, bravely forging ahead into the unknown.”

As writers began receiving the issue on Tuesday, outrage on social media was fast and furious.

“I am seriously disgusted that someone would use the Indigenous issue of Write as a jump point for a case for cultural appropriation on the backs, words, and reputations of the Indigenous writers featured in it. It’s not enough that we are finding our voices, reclaiming our ability to tell stories, and having to heal to tell these stories. But people want to tell them for us,” Helen Knott, a contributor to the issue, wrote on Facebook.

Board member Nikki Reimer posted on Twitter a link to a statement in which she resigns from the board of the Writers’ Union. She calls the column “clueless and thoughtless” and saying it “marks Write magazine as a space that is not safe for indigenous and racialized writers.”

She goes on to say that, “Canada is ‘exhaustingly white and middle class’ not because white writers are afraid to write stories they don’t ‘know,’ but because white writers don’t get out of the way and make space for the multitude of stories to be told by those who aren’t white and middle class.”

The Writers’ Union quickly stepped in, apologizing “unequivocally” and noting Wednesday that “the editor of Write magazine has resigned from his position.”



Niedzviecki did not immediately return requests for comment.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bringing Little Free Libraries to book

READING

Study suggests exchanges don't quench thirst in 'book deserts'



David Hains
Metro | Toronto

For years now, charming little "take-a-book, leave-a-book" structures have been popping up on homeowners' lawns across Canada and the world.

Although many of us have noticed these conveniently late-fee-free libraries, fewer people know they're overseen by Little Free Library, an American non-profit with 50,000 registered mini-libraries worldwide.

The organization's stated mission is to inspire a love of reading, build community, and increase access to books, especially in so-called "book deserts," where public libraries and bookstores are scarce. Fees to register a book box start at $49 US.

And some radical librarians say supporters of Little Free Library aren't seeing the bigger story.

In a study published in the Journal of Radical Librarianship (it's a real thing!) Ryerson University librarian Jane Schmidt and University of Toronto reference specialist Jordan Hale argue that the neighbourhood mini-libraries don't live up to their goals.

Hale and Schmidt mapped out the locations of the registered take-a-book, leave-a-book fixtures in Toronto and Calgary. They found the sweet little structures are located mainly in majority-white, affluent neighbourhoods well-served by public libraries — not the book deserts most in need.

"Who could critique a little birdhouse of books?" Hale rhetorically asked Metro, adding that she has an issue with the Little Free Library organization, and not the idea of swapping and sharing books.

But her paper does just that.

"We posit that in absence of any research or evidence of an issue to be addressed … simply encouraging literacy in an already information-rich and privileged environment is hardly a heroic charitable act," Schmidt and Hale wrote.



Jordan Hale has co-authored a critique of the book exchange system known as Little Free Libraries. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

The publication has been met with scorn from some in the library community, including on Library Journal's Annoyed Librarian blog, whose pseudonymous author wrote, "The entire article could have been boiled down to this sentence: Little Free Libraries claim to put books in places without public libraries, but that's not true in Toronto and only partially true in Calgary, and they are not politically radical and therefore are bad."

As far as watering book deserts goes, Little Free Library does provide no-cost depots through a donor-driven fund.

The non-profit told Metro they have set up hundreds of units through the donor program, including 40 in the past eight months in the U.S., and look to continue to add more.

"Through these little libraries, millions of books are shared each year," spokesperson Margret Aldrich wrote in an email.

Hale expressed concern that some jurisdictions turn to Little Free Libraries following cuts to full-scale libraries and that they are not an adequate substitute.

She encouraged people to support their local public library and literacy initiatives in communities that need them most.

WITH FILES FROM GENNA BUCK



JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Elder statesman Stewart falls flat



Stephen Colbert got the old gang back together again but it didn't quite come together as a show. CONTRIBUTED

THE SHOW: The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, May 9 (CBS/Global)
THE MOMENT: The reunion

"Do you ever miss it?" Stephen Colbert asks Jon Stewart, his guest and former boss at The Daily Show, now retired.

"There are nights I impotently shout [at the TV]," Stewart says. "But that's not that different from what we were doing" on the show.

"It's like shouting into an Altoid tin and throwing it over an overpass," Colbert says.

Heavyweight Daily Show alums — Samantha Bee, John Oliver, Rob Corddry and Ed Helms — join Stewart on the couch to rally around Colbert. (He's fighting a right-wing effort to get him fired, after he used a crass term last week to describe Donald Trump's subservience to Vladimir Putin.)

Then Stewart does what he came to do — defend a comedian's right to offend: "The things you say, even if they're crass…we can insult, but the president can injure… I do not understand why in this country we try to hold comedians to a standard we don't hold leaders to."

It was admirable. It was justified. But it also proved that it never quite works when Stewart appears on Colbert's show. Somehow the air between them goes flat.

Maybe it's because Stewart has become the elder statesman who swoops in to pronounce when things get serious. On his show, his sincere moments worked because they were carved out from the satire. Out of that context, he teeters toward smug.

Because today, comedians are not shouting into an Altoid tin — they have a powerful voice. Which can help heal the political divide, or deepen it.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

SOCIAL MEDIA BACKLASH

Dove's message in a bottle gets lost

The authority on love the skin you're in, Dove's latest Real Beauty campaign launched with the intention of once again celebrating body diversity, but the collection of specially designed bottles have some women taking offence at their efforts.

"Beauty comes in all shapes and sizes," Dove announces in a promotional video, showing how women's bodies, like soap bottles, don't have to conform to one mould. In this case, they can be categorized into six.

The limited edition designs, created by an advertising team at Ogilvy London, come in a variety of shapes and sizes intended to represent women's bodies — from tall and thin to hourglass-shaped.

Some of the criticism online calls the shapes unrealistic, but most have ridiculed the brand for comparing soap bottles to women's bodies.

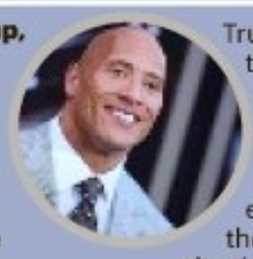
The Atlantic's Ian Bogost has even gone so far, declaring Dove has "ruined its body image" with their latest Real Beauty campaign.

"Just like women, we wanted to show that our iconic bottle can come in all shapes and sizes, too," the company said on their website.

However, some are saying rather than "break moulds," Dove may have missed the mark on this latest Real Beauty advertisement. IRENE KUAN/METRO



GOSSIP BRIEFS



After electing Trump, will U.S. become a Rock nation?
After conquering Hollywood, Dwayne The Rock Johnson may have his sights set on the White House.

The actor and former pro wrestler tells GQ that he thinks a presidential run is "a real possibility."

Johnson says if he were president, "poise" and "leadership" would be top priorities.

One thing he's not in favour of is President Donald Trump's proposed travel ban, saying that he believes "in inclusion."

Johnson declined to give an endorsement in the last presidential election even though he says both campaigns approached him for his backing.

Johnson would have at least one high-profile backer in NBCUniversal vice chairman Ron Meyer, who tells GQ he'd vote for Johnson "without a question." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



metro HOME

Your essential daily news



Former Park Slope apartment of Barack Obama, now single-family home, listed for $4.3M

From *chaos* to clutter-free

DIY and design expert Leigh-Ann Allaire Perrault found herself blushing every time she opened the door to the garage of the Oakville home she shares with her husband and two young sons. "I was embarrassed that neighbours could see all the chaos," she admits. So Allaire Perrault set to work, creating an efficient, attractive space she now jokes "may be the nicest room in the house."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE





Allaire Perrault now sees her garage as an extension of the house, and a room she can be proud of. ALL PHOTOS TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 ORGANIZE

The reorganization process started with a simple sketch by Allaire Perrault that designated "categories of tools, cleaning supplies, seasonal equipment, and recreational stuff I knew we wanted close at hand."

Using the ceiling for storage "freed up a lot of real estate," including the floor space necessary for two cars that had not seen the inside of a garage for awhile. Since the revamp, Allaire Perrault thinks twice about new purchases.

"I'm so happy not to have clutter," she says.

2 FLOOR

Investments in the redesign include new drywall and the installation of pot lights to improve visibility when doing chores. Allaire Perrault also wanted a hard-working floor, so she treated it with a sealant called Rocksolid Moisture Stop and then with an epoxy coating from Rust-Oleum that creates a marbleized, impenetrable surface (available in a kit at home improvement retailers.) Rubberized floor trim makes annual cleanings less of a hassle, as do moveable storage units.

3 WORK SPACE

Allaire Perrault created a pop-up work space that can lay flat when not in use by attaching a simple pine board to folding wall hooks. A peg board spray painted in a look-at-me yellow and edged in shoe moulding spray painted grey keeps frequently used items organized and accessible. Space above now contains perches for seasonal items, such as tires and bikes.

4 UPCYCLE

A $20 Kijiji find, a cheerful-looking cabinet had been badly rusted when Allaire Perrault rescued it. She gave it new life by using Krud Kutter rust remover and then coating it with rust-inhibiting paint in a sunny yellow. Adding labels to each drawer put everything from scissors to string in their proper space. "It used to be simpler to just go out and buy a new hammer instead of searching for the one I knew was somewhere in the garage," says Allaire Perrault. "My husband kept asking me why I needed 10 hammers."

5 FUNCTION AND DESIGN

A garage must first and foremost be functional, but that doesn't mean it can't also be stylish, says Allaire Perrault. She sees the garage as an extension of the house that's often "an untapped opportunity for good design." Aiming for a calm and classic look, she used neutral greys accented with bold colours, like the bright yellow on the cabinet and the blue on the bike racks — an affordable and easy effect to achieve with spray paint.

6 DOWNSIZE

Sending unwanted items the family had collected over 12 years to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity's Re-Store marked the "first step that felt good," says Allaire Perrault. What remained had been sorted into piles on the floor and designated to either hang on Gladiator Garageworks wall racking or to go into lockable storage units. Lastly, Allaire Perrault calculated how many and what kind of hooks, holders and other hanging accessories (such as paper-towel holders) had been needed.



Plants can add drama or warmth to a room or help solve design challenges. Below: Designer Kristina Crestin creates a "triangle of green" to balance a room. JARED KUZIA PHOTOGRAPHY VIA AP

Designers on indoor plant trends that are taking root

DECOR

Designers advise on what to buy and where to put it

From kitchen herb gardens to miniature indoor trees, interior designers are increasingly bringing plants into their home design projects.

Plants are "the one little piece that people always forget will finish a room," says Massachusetts-based designer Kristina Crestin. They make a space feel complete but not over-accessorized, she says, and can solve a range of design challenges.

New York designer Young Huh agrees: A miniature tree can be the perfect addition where you need something tall, she says and a flowering plant can bring a burst of colour. Plants also help clean the air, boost oxygen levels and bring a welcome sense of natural unpredictability into otherwise meticulous, modern spaces.

Which plants are popular right now and what are the best ways to decorate with them? Three designers — Crestin, Huh and New York-based Lindsey Coral Harper — offer their thoughts:

From delicate to bold

For several years, the it plant among designers has been the fiddlefig tree (also called fiddlefig fern). Their trunks are tall and graceful, with large glossy leaves creating a burst of green.

Fiddlefigs are beautiful and relatively easy to care for, Crestin says, so their trendiness shouldn't be a thing to avoid.

For something more sophisticated, Harper recommends "any type of boxwood or topiary," she says. "They also make wonderful hostess gifts."

Another current favourite: the staghorn fern, which has strong, sculptural leaves.

"Staghorn ferns are really interesting and very masculine to me," Harper says, and they look great "in a more rustic setting."

If you're seeking something delicate, Huh recommends a maidenhair fern. Upkeep is minimal, she says (just "keep them misted and moist"), and the intricate leaves are as pretty as a flowering plant.

Another popular choice: miniature olive trees. "They're a sign of peace and fruitfulness," Huh says, and look gorgeous in a ceramic pot on a table.

Hanging out

It's popular to hang planters on walls, or put up hanging terrariums with succulents or "air plants" inside, says Huh.

These low maintenance plants only need to be misted, rather than watered, and "they stay alive forever," she says.

The challenge with wall-hung plants is that repeated misting may damage your walls, Crestin points out. So you may prefer to put those same kinds of plants in low-slung pots on a coffee table or other surface.



One plant all by itself can look a bit sad and lonely, so add several plants or place a single large one near a piece of furniture.

"I believe in repetition," says Crestin. For a recent design project, she added three items to one room — a fern in a low-slung bowl on a coffee table, a beautiful ceramic cup holding a delicate, mossy plant, and then a larger fern in another bowl.

Try to create a "triangle of green," she says, balancing one plant with another.

Branches and flowers

These designers also suggest looking at what's blooming outside your home and occasionally bringing it inside.

"I just got back from a job in Florida, and it was so easy to go outside and clip a few palms," Harper says. "Throw them in a vase and voila!"

Cut flowers are another option for bringing nature indoors. Though they may only last a few days, "that's what makes flowers so special," Huh says. "That ephemeral quality is what makes us appreciate their beauty."

Kitchens and baths

Huh says many homeowners are buying wall-mounted growing systems or adding kitchen shelves specifically for potted herbs, berries and other plants grown for consumption. She's also pleased to see plants being used in bathroom decorating:

"My father used to grow orchids in the bathroom because they got moisture every day," Huh says. "It's a great place for ferns."

Know your space and habits

Even if you love something in a magazine or while shopping at a nursery, consider your particular space and habits.

"Think about how much sunlight, love and attention your plants might need," Harper says. "Make sure you have plants in the appropriate spot in your home so they can grow and prosper."

Personally, she says, "I prefer something with a little less mess and upkeep."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTERIORS

All of the uses of olive: Mid-century tones to sculptural wood design

Olive trees, native to the Mediterranean region, are among nature's oldest and they look it. Gnarled, brawny trunks, a crown full of silvery leaves and clusters of tiny green fruit give olive trees an Old World look. Designers have lately been warming to the tree, its wood and olive hues.

Outdoors, olives are hardy through zones 8-11 and zone 7 if you can protect them from wind. North of that, you'll need to bring them in for the winter.

Olives are fast growers and prolific fruit-bearers outdoors, if given favourable conditions. Don't over-water, prune the inside branches so the whole tree gets lots of light and increase the pot size after a year. Dwarf varieties are easy to grow in a pot or basket, if given decent light.

Right now, Pottery Barn is offering fresh olive branches and dried lavender in an aromatic wreath.



Turkish olive harvesting pot can be filled with a household items or plants. CONTRIBUTED

Olive wood

The wood's distinctive characteristics — its smooth density and interesting grain pattern — have made olive furniture and accessories popular.

"There's a great sculptural quality to olive wood — a simple bowl becomes an elegant art piece," says New York City interior designer and artist Mike Harrison.

Retailer Homegoods is offering a sphere crafted from olive wood, as well as a curvy side table and various bowls. Olive wood serveware can be especially nice. A beautifully turned wooden spoon, with the grain curving about the form, is a sensuous tool. Williams-Sonoma has a collection of utensils and cutting boards, as well as pinch bowls and lidded salt keeper.

The colours

Olive's wide array of hues allows for versatility in decorating.

Its place in mid-century modern's colour covenant has made it a popular paint hue the past few seasons. It pairs well with other toothsome colours like chocolate, orange, raspberry, cream and mustard.

"Olive tones are timeless, and green is an important colour in 2017," says Sue Wadden, colour marketing director for Sherwin-Williams. The company's Restless Olive packs all the punch of a zesty martini.

Benjamin Moore's Tate Olive, from its Historic palette, has a refined intensity. Spanish Olive dials the hue back to a more neutral position.

Olive pairs successfully with many other woods, and with mid- and light-toned stains, where its organic appeal gives the colour greater depth, says Stephanie Pierce of Masterbrand Cabinets. Consider using the colour in family rooms, bedrooms and kitchens for a warm and welcoming vibe.

"I like seeing olive green tones used with dusty pinks and navy blue," says Wadden. "Because olive is such a quintessential food colour, people enjoy a positive association with this colour, especially in the kitchen. Olive tones are great on cabinets and furniture."

At Article, a stunning chesterfield sofa is upholstered in olive green velvet.

Other touches of olive

At Pottery Barn, vintage Turkish olive-gathering buckets, made of galvanized metal with symmetrical air vents, have a nice cottage-y look and can hold herb plants or fragrant milled soaps.

And then there's olive oil. There are hundreds of ways to enjoy its flavour, but there are other uses for it, too. The folks at marthastewart.com recommend olive oil as a natural furniture polish, and a combo of oil and vinegar as a cleaner. A little oil on a clean rag will restore shine and protect from tarnish your stainless steel and brass items. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Article's tufted green velvet Chester sofa. CONTRIBUTED

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The ReStore is the social enterprise for Habitat for Humanity. They sell donated items and the proceeds fund the administrative and fundraising costs of Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia. "That means when we get donations from citizens and organizations, all of that money goes into building safe, healthy homes for families in need in our province,"says Deborah Page, director of marketing and retail operations for Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia.

Pop in and you'll find furniture, decor, artwork, lamps, pool tables, exercise machines, small and large appliances, electrical, flooring, plumbing, doors, cabinetry, vanities and a lot more. "It's pretty much anything you would find in a building supply store plus a lot of furniture and unique finds as well," she said.

It's open to the public six days a week and you don't pay tax — ever.

"If you're renovating, it's a great place to come to get rid of the stuff you're taking out and find what you need for your project," Page says.



CONTRIBUTED

"We not only get used, but also new items as well. We get some beautiful faucets and other items people are looking for and you're going to pay on average 50 per cent less than retail."

They also have a team that will come to your house and take out your component kitchen and you'll get a tax receipt for it.

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Revamp your home's exterior to add curb appeal



CONTRIBUTED

With the sun finally out, now is the time to call Sarty Siding and Windows Ltd. to get those exterior projects on the go.

Spring is the perfect time to refresh your home , build a new deck, replace siding, update windows, doors, roofing and gutters.

"People get out around their house and once they get looking, they are motivated to get started on projects that will not only beautify their home, but make it more efficient," said Louise McKeen, manager. "We offer free estimates to homeowners. Plus our crews are all certified installers, have all their safety training and we're fully insured."

The team at Sarty's are very knowledgeable and they've been beautifying homes for decades. The family business was started by Bill Sarty in 1974. Fred Hutchinson joined the company in 1979 as a siding installer. In 1989, with Sarty planning to retire, Hutchinson and his wife, Joyce, purchased the company. Louise joined the team then as well. Most of the crew has been with the company for many years, with one being a part of the team for more than 40 years.

Sarty's aim is customer satisfaction. Clients call in to talk to an actual person, receive a scheduled site visit and a written quote. The Sarty team is with you from the initial call to completion of the project.

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They're not just for show and it's important to keep them updated, said Bren VanderZwaag with MetroGutter and Home Services.

The soffit allows for airflow into the attic space while the gutters and downpipe collect water and lead it away from the house.

"Wood fascia and soffits will last a long time if they have been kept up and painted regularly. A good time to look at replacing your gutter system is when you re-shingle your roof, usually at 20-30 years," VanderZwaag said.

Often customers choose low-maintenance materials like vinyl and aluminium. The process usually involves removing the old gutter system and checking the old fascia boards for rot and replacing it if needed. Then VanderZwaag opens up the old soffits to allow adequate airflow into the home's attic.



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"Bending the aluminum cladding on-site insures every piece is made custom for the home. Our gutter truck manufactures the one-piece seamless gutter on-site for the perfect fit," he says.

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"I've been cleaning for over 25 years with national retailers like Sears and Canadian Tire," said owner Shane Bolger. "I opened up my own shop in Halifax when I returned from Vancouver to be closer to my family."

Bolger and his team steam clean carpets, upholstery, area rugs, as well as removing flood water.

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"We treat our customers how we would like to be treated and we use care while in their homes," Bolger said. "If the customer is not happy, we insist they call us and let us know so we can make them happy. Referrals are an important source of business for us."



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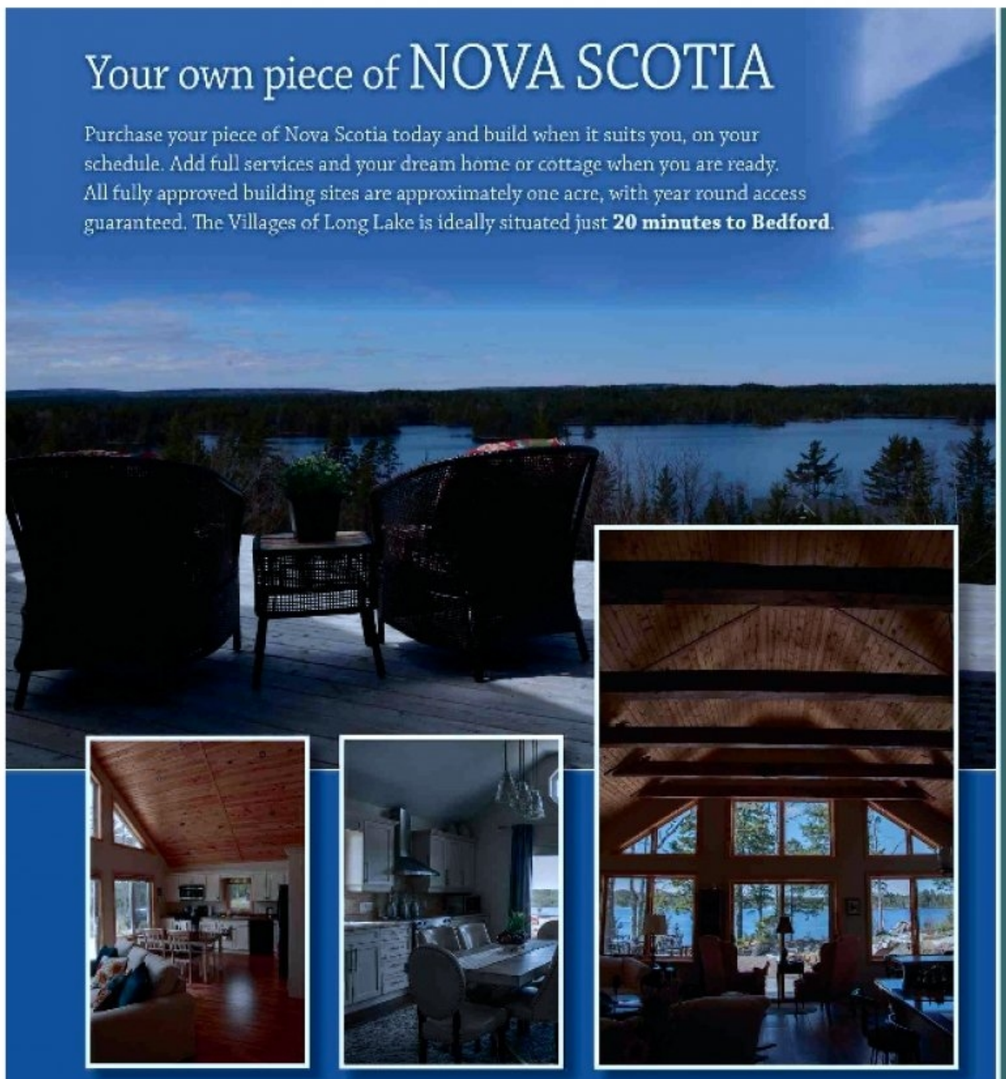
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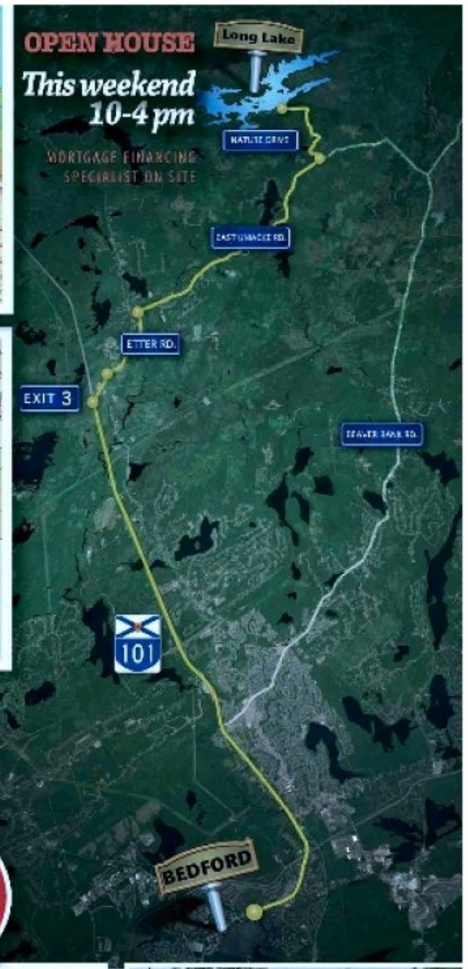
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Wow mom with a gadget gift

FOR THOSE ON THE RUN

Future-proof ways of saying 'I love you'

Marc Saltzman

Resist the predictable. Instead of picking up mom some flowers, chocolates or fancy bath soaps, consider a shiny new tech toy for mom to play around with.

After all, today's busy moms could use a great gadget while on the go, whether it's to stay organized, entertained, or in touch with those who matter.

If you need some suggestions ahead of Mother's Day — and yes, it's this Sunday, May 14 — the following are some future-proof ways of saying "I love you," with prices ranging from $49 to $239.

Book 'em: Whether your mom hasn't yet used an ereader or if it's time for an upgrade, the all new Kobo Aura H20 ($199) is a lightweight and waterproof device with a sharp 6.8-inch anti-glare screen, customizable text, and enough storage to carry many thousands of books. Along with more than five million titles at the Kobo Bookstore, you can also borrow books from your local library for free. This Kobo also features ComfortLight PRO, which not only illuminates the screen while reading in bed (without having to turn on a night table lamp), but it also reduces blue-light exposure so it won't prevent mom from getting tired.



KOBO AURA H20



FITBIT ALTA HR

All in the wrist: The latest on the "activity tracker" scene, Fitbit Alta HR ($199, regular price) is a slim and stylish wristband that monitors your steps, distance, calories burned, heart rate, and gives friendly reminders to move. Fitbit Alta HR also includes SmartTrack automatic exercise recognition, which gives you credit for being active, while optional smartphone notifications keep you connected throughout the day. Tailor your look for any occasion with interchangeable metal, leather, and classic bands. By night, Alta HR automatically tracks your sleep and shows your time spent in light, deep and REM sleep.

Music matters: Perhaps mom wants to relax on a backyard deck, balcony, or by a pool? Adding the right music can make the difference between a good day and a great one. Boompods Aquapod ($80) is a durable and waterproof "go anywhere" Bluetooth speaker with large touch controls, 70 decibels of loud and cloud sound, and an integrated microphone if a call comes in. Whether mom uses this speaker for music, podcasts or audiobooks (or all three), it includes an accessory pack, which includes a bike mount, suction cup wall mount (for shower), karabiner, and safety lanyard. Available in multiple colours, battery life tops five hours between charges.



BOOMPODS AQUAPOD



RING VIDEO DOORBELL

Ring my bell: As the name suggests, the Ring Video Doorbell ($239) lets you see who's at your front door — whether you're home or not. Working in conjunction with a companion app on smartphone or tablet, this Wi-Fi doorbell shows who's on your doorstep (in clear 720p HD), and you can have a two-way audio conversation with your visitor. Motion sensors detect movement up to 30 feet, and sends you automatic alerts, and so you can be notified even before they press the button. All recorded footage is stored to the cloud, in case you ever need it. Other features include easy set up (opt for battery power or use your existing bell's wiring), night vision support, and a wide-angle lens to see more of your home's entrance in high definition.

She's so crafty: For the mom who likes scrapbooking, works from home, or wants to create fun activities for the kids, the Epson Expression Home XP-440 Small-in-One Printer ($99) is an affordable and compact printer, scanner, copier and fax machine. Print from virtually anywhere, even when mom's not at home, and whether she's on a smartphone, tablet or computer. Using the Epson Creative Print App, she can easily print Facebook and Instagram photos directly from her mobile device, create photo collages, send personalized messages, customize greeting cards and stationery, and turn memories into fun colouring pages. For added creativity, Epson's specialty paper includes Iron-On Transfer Paper ($21 for 10 sheets), Photo Paper Glossy ($17 for 100 sheets), or Presentation Paper Matte ($21 for 100 sheets).



EPSON EXPRESSION HOME XP-440 SMALL-IN-ONE PRINTER



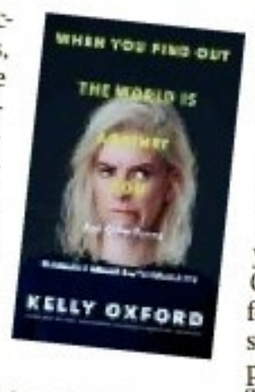
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Literary picks for the family bookworm

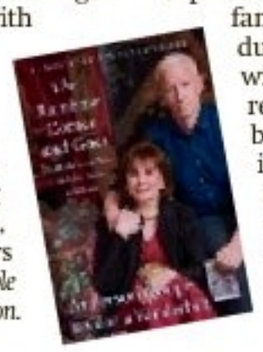
Jaclyn Tersigni

Amongst this crop of recently published books by moms, for moms and about moms, you'll find a book to suit the voracious bookworm, the leader of the book club, or the poolside page-turner.

When You Find Out the World Is Against You by Kelly Oxford
Funny woman Kelly Oxford is back with her second collection of essays, filled with the sort of razor-sharp and hilarious anecdotes and observations that first catapulted the Calgary mom to Twitter fame — and to a new life in Los Angeles — years ago. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $15.99-$46.23.*



Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
When an old friend reached out for advice on how to best raise her daughter as a feminist, Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie responded with a letter detailing 15 ideas. Now, Adichie has turned those suggestions into a thoughtful manifesto for parents seeking to raise empowered, feminist daughters — and sons. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $9.99-$11.40.*



It All Begins with Food by Leah Garrad-Cole
For new moms and mothers of young children, Leah Garrad-Cole's book is a rich resource for creating delicious and wholesome meals that teach an appreciation for healthy living. The author knows her stuff; she's the founder of Love Child Organics, the highly successful maker of healthy snacks for kids and babies. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $16.99-$28.39.*

The Rainbow Comes and Goes by Anderson Cooper and Gloria Vanderbilt
In this deeply intimate collection of personal correspondence, the famous mother-and-son duo discuss their lives with incredible candor, revealing their unique bond and their distinctive personalities. Mom may need tissues for this one. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $11.99-$26.70.*

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi
Homecoming tells the story of Effia and Esi, two half-sisters who, born into different villages in 18th century Ghana, are unknown to one another and are cast on different trajectories that lead to disparate lives. Yaa Gyasi's masterful debut novel weaves together themes of love, race, history, geography and familial bonds. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $13.99-$42.01.*

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Under the microscope

SCIENCE

U of T students invented the electron microscope

Sean Plummer

For scientists, it seemed an impossible dream: create an electron microscope.

Unlike optical microscopes, which use glass lenses to magnify objects, an electron microscope uses electrons instead of light to illuminate its subjects, which lets it magnify at much greater resolution.

Researchers had tried since the 1920s, but the images were invariably blurry. Until, that is, two young Canadian scientists, James Hillier and Albert Prebus, finally succeeded.

The ambitious graduate students in the physics program at the University of Toronto created their fully functioning transmission magnetic electron microscope in 1938. It could magnify objects up to 30,000 times. Today, electron microscopes can magnify up to 10 million times.



James Hillier, left, and Albert Prebus were honoured at the Ontario Science Centre for building the first electron microscope. TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

Oil in the family

We may not be Saudi Arabia, but Canada has its fair share of oil.

In fact, we're ranked fifth in the world among crude oil producers, ahead of such famous oil-producing nations as Iraq and the United Arab Emirates. SEAN PLUMMER



Canada produces a whole lot of oil. TORSTAR FILE PHOTO



TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

How do you like your coffee?

That perkiest of Canadian chocolate treats, the Coffee Crisp bar, turns 77 this year. It originated in Britain in the 1930s under another name before migrating to these shores.

In 1939, Coffee Crisp was officially launched, and while there have been flavour variations over the years — including orange, raspberry and even maple — chocolate and coffee remains the perennial favourite. (Fun fact: its factory is located in Toronto.)

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2 Is secure, meaningful, full-time work in your future?



4 An ever green future for Alberta energy workers



10 Holding employers accountable

WORKING FOR A
#FAIRFUTURE

Issue 1 • Volume 1 A SPONSORED FEATURE BY PEPPER MEDIA Thursday, May 11, 2017

Strengthening the foundations of Canada's workplaces

When Ontario's 60 Loblaws Great Food and Superstores introduced fair scheduling pilots in a deal struck with the United Food and Commercial Workers union, the lives of part-time workers became significantly less stressful overnight. With advance notice on schedules from three to 10 days, employees could now book child care and plan family events with confidence.

Another deal between Unifor Local 414 and the Metro grocery chain guaranteed workers a minimum of 15 hours a week after one year of employment and 24 hours a week after eight years.

These are the kinds of moderate but critical measures that can change the lives of the four million Canadians – about 25 per cent of all workers – who earn $15 or less per hour and often work in insecure, part-time positions. (Almost a third of younger workers are in temporary jobs.)

"Canadians are feeling greater stress about their own work lives and those of future generations, for good reason," reported Dr. Kendra Coulter, a labour studies professor at the Centre for Labour Studies at Brock University. Low pay, erratic hours and little job security are key issues as employers increasingly rely on part-time workers, often hiring new employees even when existing staff want more hours.

"Most people can't get by with so few hours, particularly when combined with a low hourly wage. Unemployment is a problem and so is underemployment," Coulter says.

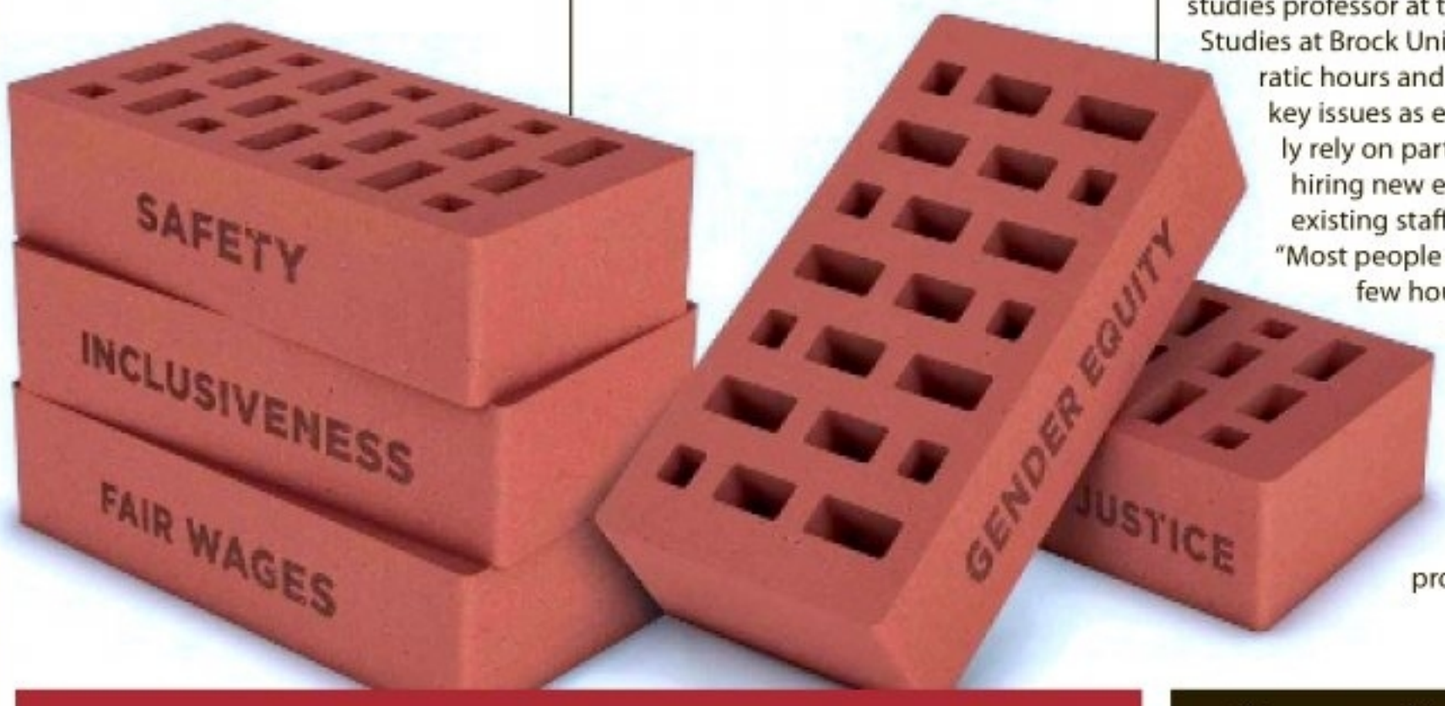
> "You can also profit by paying fair wages and treating employees with respect; earning their loyalty and commitment."
>
> **Dr. Kendra Coulter,**
> Professor, Centre for Labour Studies, Brock University

Fortunately, progressive-minded companies are increasingly collaborating with unions to leverage the benefits of fair employment practices. "You can also profit by paying fair wages and treating employees with respect; earning their loyalty and commitment," Coulter noted.

Samia Hashi, who recently helped to unionize her own workplace at Bell TV, agrees that unions play an important role in ensuring fairness. As a panelist at a recent Young Workers Conference, she said, "Although at times, meeting our objectives and bringing about change can be a long task, we must always keep at it – action can make a difference!

"If more people have a bit more money, they are healthier, happier, able to contribute more fully to society and, of course, they spend it, usually close to home. Many employers in countries like Sweden and some here in Canada have learned these lessons and are prospering."

Workers and governments also have critical roles to play in creating a stable employment future that offers benefits for all stakeholders, Coulter says. "Through commitment and political will, it is possible to grow the economy in sustainable, healthy and ethical ways – so people not only have careers, but can be proud of what they do." ■



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OPINION

Making jobs better, for a fair future



by Hassan Yussuff,
Canadian Labour Congress
President

Feeling on edge lately because of work? Maybe you don't know when your next shift will be, or you can't scrape together enough hours to make ends meet. Maybe you're worried about getting sick and not being able to take time off. Or maybe you or someone you love can't find a job at all.

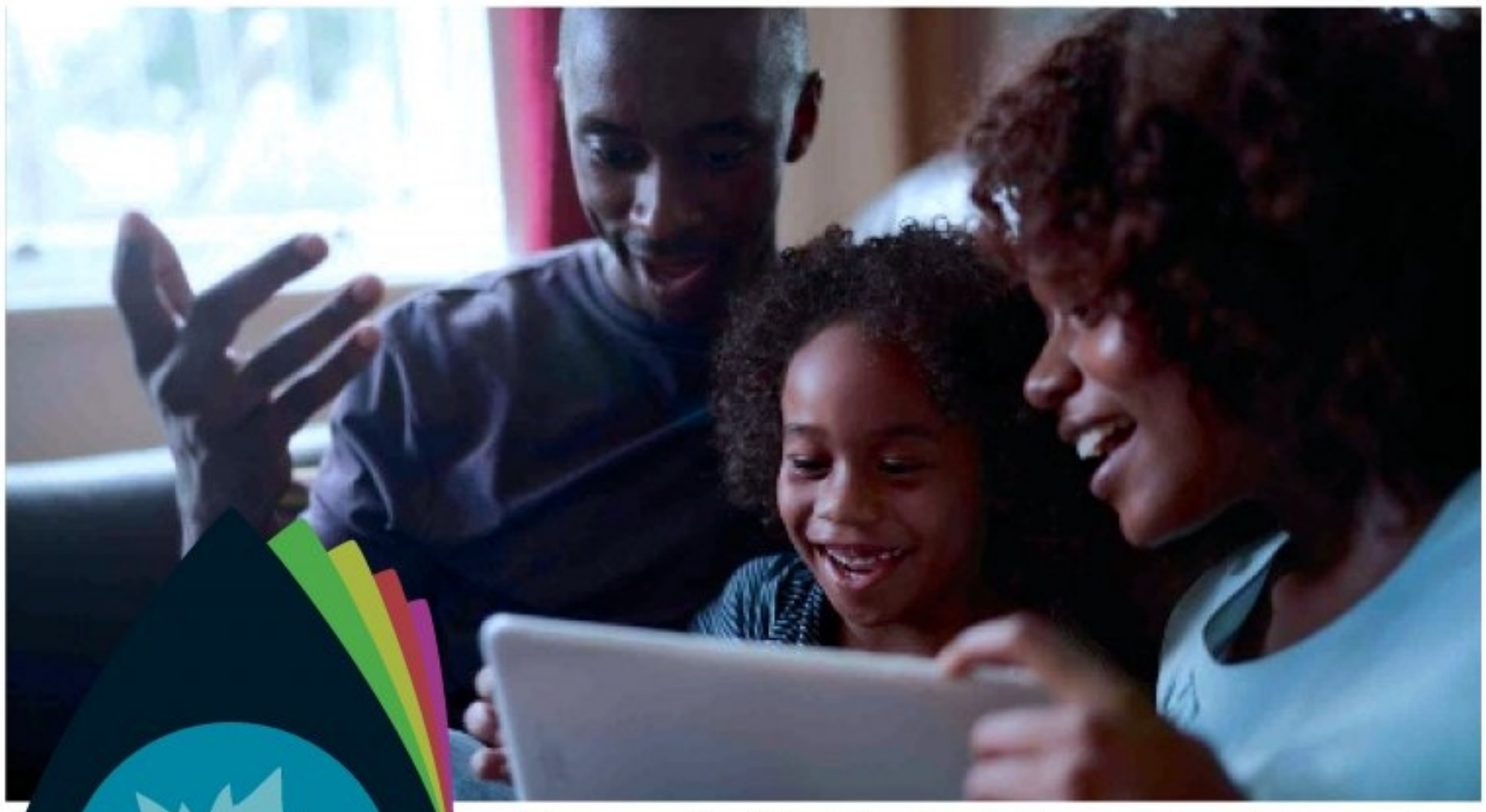
Unfortunately, more and more Canadian workers are struggling to establish their careers. Instead of actually sharing in the benefits of the much-hyped "sharing economy," average people are living precariously in today's labour market. For the first time in history, young Canadians are expected to earn less than their parents.

So I can't help but look at my own nine-year-old daughter with concern about what the future will hold for her. Will she be able to find secure, meaningful, full-time work? Will she be mired in a precarious existence for her lifetime? Is my generation leaving hers behind?

Many of today's young workers may never know the benefit of a lifelong career. Instead they will cycle through a lifetime of revolving door employment that is being dubbed the "job churn." Almost one-third are currently in temporary jobs, many work for multiple employers, and they are twice as likely to be unemployed. Despite being the most educated generation in history, young Canadians today struggle to find jobs that match their qualifications.

The consequences are more than just financial. In a recent survey by the Ontario Federation of Labour, nearly one-third of precarious workers said their most significant concern was how their work situation impacted their emotional health. That is a dramatic stress tax to pay for employment, and it isn't what my generation and my parents' generation wanted for our children and grandchildren.

Unions believe we can do better. We can work together to build a fair future, instead of relying on an unstable foundation of part-time, temporary, low-wage jobs.



Unions are working with federal and provincial governments to win better province-wide and national standards for workers, and help all Canadians build a better future for generations to come. ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

Fairness in our changing world of work starts with raising the minimum wage to at least $15/hour, because working for a living shouldn't mean living in poverty.

Fairness in our changing world of work starts with raising the minimum wage to at least $15/hour, because working for a living shouldn't mean living in poverty. Right now, Alberta is leading the way as they phase in a $15 minimum wage by 2018, and unions are working hard to convince other provinces and the federal government to do the same so there is a national standard for all Canadian workers.

Next, workers need predictable hours and paid time off for illness or emergencies. Otherwise they're left making the same impossible choices between family, health and work.

Many grocery store workers have felt the reality of unpredictability over the past several years, but recently, groups have started working with their unions to tackle that issue. More than 10,000 part-time workers at Ontario's Loblaws and Superstores won fairer scheduling and better hours. These workers now get minimum hour guarantees, and 10 instead of three days' notice when they have to work. Thousands of Metro store workers won similar improvements, which makes achieving work-life balance much easier, especially for parents or those working multiple jobs.

Another way unions are building a fair future is ensuring no worker ever has to choose between losing their job and staying in a violent relationship. As a result of unions' work, the Manitoba government passed legislation last year allowing a combination of paid and unpaid leave to victims of domestic violence seeking safety from abusers. Similar legislation is being considered in Ontario and Saskatchewan.

As our workplaces and communities change, unions are stepping up to meet the challenges in new ways. Unions are working with federal and provincial governments to win better provincewide and national standards for all workers, like the recent new restrictions on federal unpaid internships, a ban on asbestos and better pensions for everyone.

We're working with environmental and community allies to develop strategies for a just and fair transition for workers in industries affected by climate change. Together, we're building a vision of a clean growth economy that creates jobs, keeps communities thriving and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Together, we can do right by our children and grandchildren – we can turn the tide on precarious work and build a fair future for all Canadians. ■


Making work better for everyone. For Canada's unions, it's a labour of love.
Part-time, temporary, low-wage jobs are no way to live now, or build a future.
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ENERGY

Green shift: Ensuring justice for Alberta's coal workers

With Alberta moving to phase out coal-fired electricity generation in the province, a coalition of workers who will be affected has created a blueprint for a "just transition" plan focused on jobs, affected workers and their communities.

The Coal Transition Coalition's report looks at past successes and failures of other jurisdictions and recommends the government establish an Alberta Economic Adjustment Agency to manage the transition.

"The workers who have dedicated their careers to keeping the lights on need to be supported as they face the closure of coal-fired electrical plants and associated mines," Coal Transition Coalition chair and Alberta Federation of Labour president Gil McGowan says. "This government is a global leader and innovator in climate change policies – it can also be a leader in creating a path forward for workers in industries affected by these policies."

The coalition represents more than 3,000 workers concerned about fairness in terms of pensions, severance, labour-retention strategies and other workforce issues, such as economic diversification.

Last November, the Government of Alberta promised $195 million to support the transition.

In a statement, Economic Development Minister Deron Bilous says he has seen first-hand how phasing out of coal creates uncertainty for workers and their families.

"We are working respectfully and collaboratively with labour leaders and their members, power companies, the federal government and local governments to provide stability and build an economy for the future in coal communities," the minister says.

Bilous says the province worked with the federal government to secure an exception that could allow affected coal plants to continue operating past federally mandated end-of-life dates, by converting to non-coal-fired generation, including with natural gas.

The Alberta government has agreed to provide payments to three electricity companies – TransAlta, Capital Power and ATCO – to compensate for past coal-related infrastructure investments and provide options for them "to transition to new electricity generating methods that would create long-term economic opportunities for the communities they operate in," says Bilous.

> "We feel strongly that 'just transition' policy has to involve more than ensuring employers fulfil their severance obligations. We need plans for retraining and redeployment of people to other jobs."
>
> **Gil McGowan,**
> Coal Transition Coalition chair and Alberta Federation of Labour president

In return, the companies have agreed to fulfil existing and future legal obligations to employees, including severance and pension obligations.

The province appointed an Advisory Panel on Coal Communities to consult with economic development organizations, workers, labour and local leaders about the community impact of the coal phase-out – and how to best support coal communities through this transition.

According to Bilous, the "especially valuable" reports of the Coal Transition Coalition will be included in the panel's feedback to government later this year.

"We are very encouraged by the steps the government has taken so far, but we still need to do more work," says McGowan. "We feel strongly that 'just transition' policy has to involve more than ensuring employers fulfil their severance obligations. We need plans for retraining and redeployment of people to other jobs." ■



United Steelworkers 1595 member Debbi Labrecque, who works at the Highvale Mine west of Edmonton, is one of 3,000 Alberta workers to be affected by the planned phase out of coal-fired electricity. SUPPLIED

POLICY

What is a just transition for workers?



The transition to a clean economy – one that runs on clean energy instead of fossil fuels – holds great promise, but as Canada moves towards that goal, one group of workers cannot be forgotten: those whose careers have been tied to the fossil-fuel economy being phased out.

A just transition involves industrial transformation that will eliminate dependency on fossil fuels and completely overhaul the energy sector. It also requires policy that creates new jobs designed to reduced greenhouse gas emissions – so-called "climate jobs." Finally, it means looking out for the workers from the fossil-fuel energy industry, finding and offering appropriate compensation and, if needed, skills training.

All three pillars – industrial transformation, development of clean energy jobs and fair transitioning of employees – are "interdependent and interrelated to the point where all three must work together – one without the others won't work," says Tony Clarke, chair of the Green Economy Network.



The last time the U.S. imposed duties on Canadian lumber, 15,000 jobs were lost within months. Canada's resource communities can't afford to take another hit like this.

Visit unifor.org/softwood and tell the federal government to stand up to the Americans and save Canadian forestry jobs.

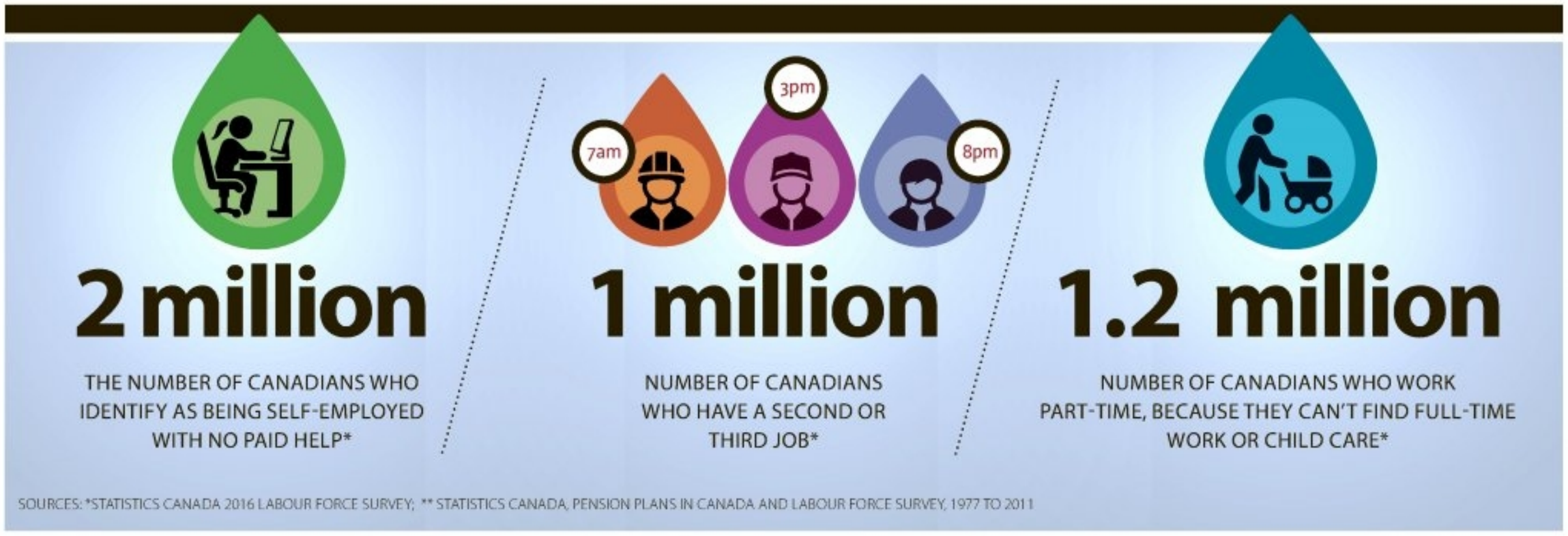
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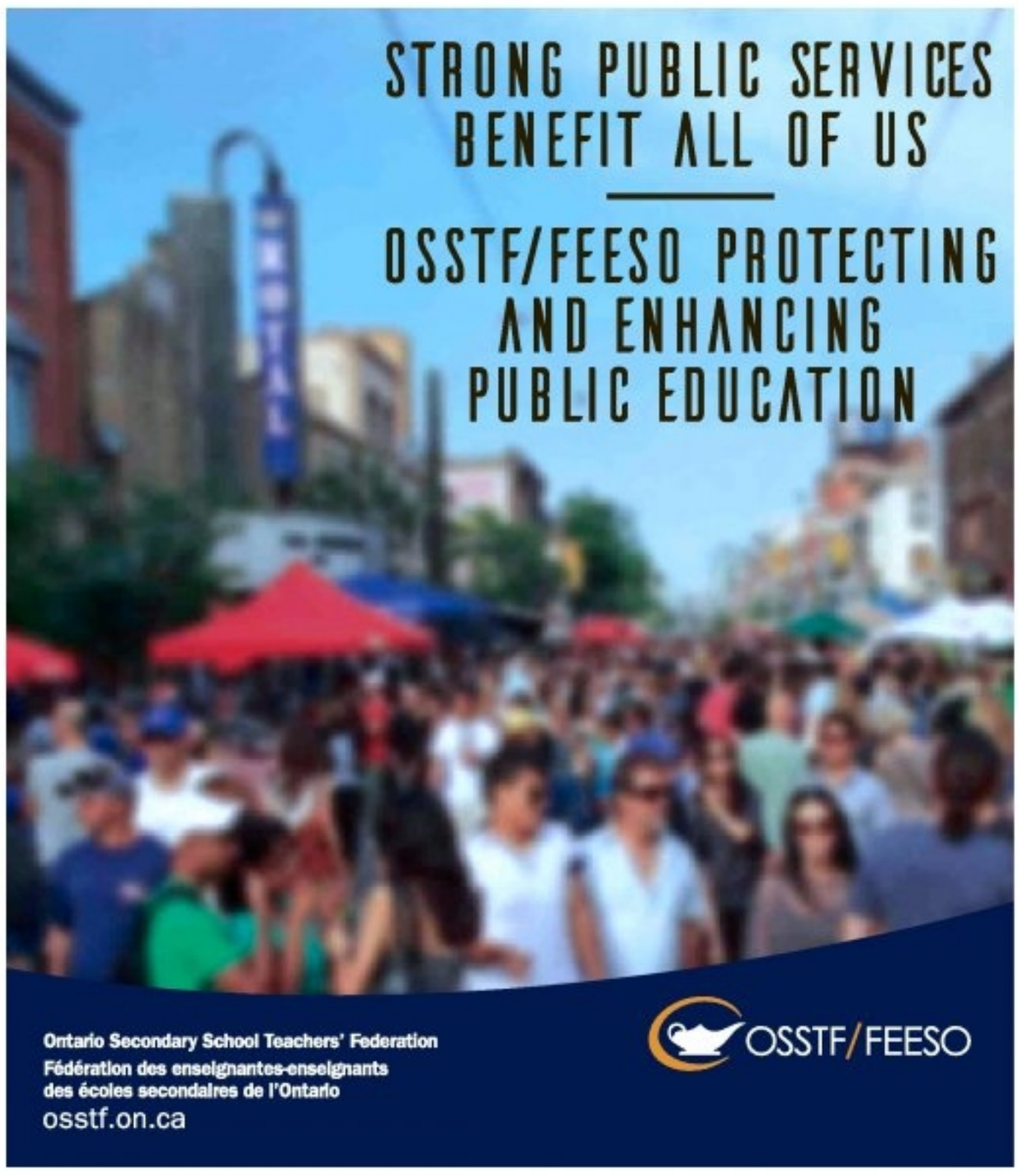
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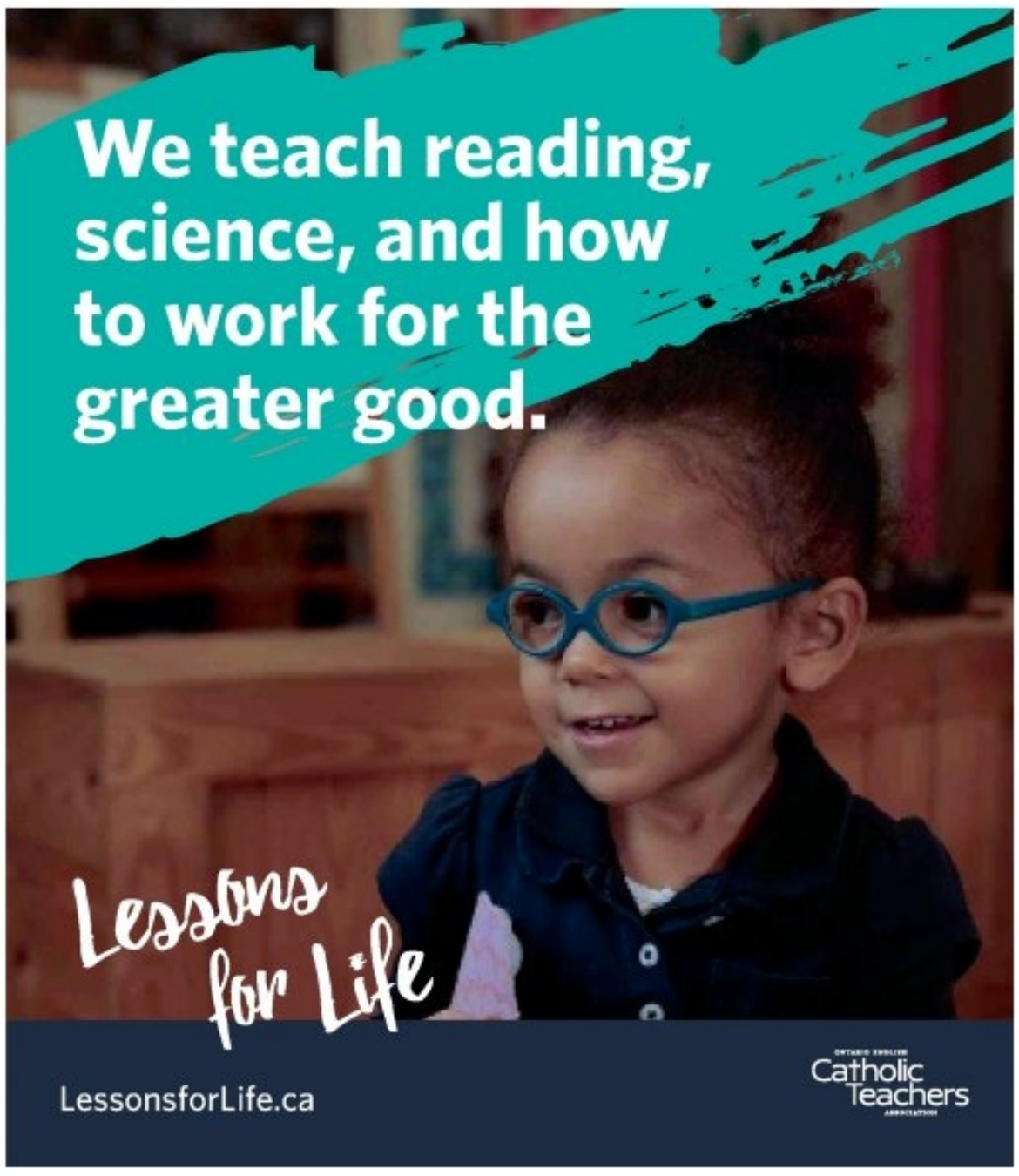
BY THE NUMBERS

Are you living on the edge?

Latest statistics portray the precarious lives of Canadians workers









45% vs. **38%**

CHANGE BETWEEN THE EARLY '90S TO 2011 IN THE PERCENTAGE OF CANADIANS HAVING A REGISTERED PENSION PLAN**

ANALYSIS

The "gig economy"

Are companies like Airbnb and Uber the harbingers of a utopian 'sharing economy' where everyone benefits? Or are they lowering job standards and raising housing prices? Some say it is time to take a closer look.

In Seattle, for example, Uber driver Takele Gobena invested $14,000 in a car after being assured he would earn at least $25 an hour driving passengers. But with commissions, fees and auto expenses, he often netted about $3 an hour. After failing to make even minimum wage, after working up to 14 hours each day for Uber and Lyft, Gobena was instrumental in unionizing Seattle's drivers. "We just want a voice," he says.

Lis Pimentel, president of UNITE HERE Local 75, which represents hospitality workers, is campaigning for Airbnb oversight and regulation in the Greater Toronto Area. She says about 6,000 homes are currently listed on Airbnb in Toronto. "That is similar to three Royal Yorks and a Sheridan Centre operating with no accountability of any kind," she said in an earlier interview.



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Over 78,000 teachers, occasional teachers, and education professionals are dedicated to defending and improving publicly funded, public education in Ontario. The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario knows that we cannot do this alone so we have embarked on a series of community forums and consultations about our schools. Our union, working in solidarity with communities and advocacy groups, is committed to building better schools and a more just Ontario.

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EQUITY

Addressing the gender wage gap

It's 2017, but Canada's working women are still making less money than men, a disparity that runs through all sectors of employment.

Although women in Canada are legally guaranteed equal pay for equal work – meaning that men and women working in the same job get the same pay – wage discrimination exists in jobs of equal value in fields traditionally dominated by women.

"Some jobs traditionally performed by women are given less value," says Vicky Smallman, director of women's and human rights at the Canadian Labour Congress. "For example, truck drivers, who are often men, are paid more than child care workers, who are often women."

The situation is even worse for women who are indigenous, racialized or who have disabilities, she says.

Pay equity can combat that kind of wage discrimination by requiring employers to evaluate and compare jobs based on gender-neutral criteria, Smallman says. Ontario and Quebec have laws that require pay equity, but they only apply to sectors within provincial jurisdiction, and Ontario's only applies to public-sector workers.

"We want the same rules for federal jurisdictions, such as transportation and fisheries," Smallman says. "We want the federal government to table the proactive legislation suggested by its Pay Equity Task Force in 2004. They've promised to table it by 2018, but why not now?"

Unions, she says, are also negotiating with employers to address systemic discrimination.

"Just being part of a union helps narrow the wage gap," she says. "We negotiate fair wages for workers, but having legislation gives us tools to address systemic wage disparity." ■



The Canadian Labour Congress is asking the federal government to table the proactive legislation suggested by its Pay Equity Task Force in 2004, and bring pay equity to women. SUPPLIED

FAIRNESS

Seeking economic justice:

Pay equity, child care and domestic violence leave

PAY EQUITY: Despite the inclusion of 113 action items in the 2004 Pay Equity Task Force report, work traditionally performed by women continues to pay lower wages. The federal government says it will enact legislation by 2018. Why not 2017?

CHILD CARE: A national child care system would address sky-high fees and help parents, especially women, join the labour force. Let's get it done.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE: A third of workers in Canada have experienced domestic violence. Paid leave helps victims escape without fear of job loss. Manitoba's government recently granted five days. The rest of Canada should follow suit.

Canada is stronger with quality public services

Members of the **Public Service Alliance of Canada** know first-hand the impact that years of cuts have had on the quality of Canada's public services.

We have urged the federal government to substantially restore and improve these services. We are encouraged by recent investments in food safety and transportation infrastructure, but much more is needed to restore the services Canadians rely on.

The federal government also requires a stable, permanent workforce with adequate resources in order to consistently deliver the high-quality public services Canadians deserve. Turning public services over to private companies to turn a profit and relying on workers in precarious jobs means lower quality services and higher costs to Canadians.

Our members are committed to

- keeping the food we eat and the medicines we use safe
- helping our veterans
- protecting our environment
- maintaining our national parks and historic sites
- supporting immigrants and refugees
- working to keep illegal drugs and guns out of our country
- making sure our seniors are receiving their CPP, Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement cheques

These are just a few of the public services our members provide. Supporting the people who deliver the vital services Canadians depend on is in everyone's interest.

In 2015, Canadians voted for the promise of real change. Stronger public services are part of the change they wanted.

A message from National President Robyn Benson, on behalf of 180,000 PSAC members.

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OUR MEMBERS ARE WORKING FOR CANADIANS EVERY DAY

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PSAC continues to grow and evolve. Our varied membership includes not only federal public service workers but workers in post-secondary institutions, in territorial governments and northern cities and towns, and in services such as women's shelters, among others.



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THE WESTRAY LAW

Holding employers accountable for safety

In the early morning of May 9, 1992, an explosion at the Westray Mine in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, killed 26 miners working underground.

It was one of the deadliest mining disasters in Canadian history. The United Steelworkers lobbied for years and in 2004 won changes to the Criminal Code – known as the Westray Law – that made it possible for police to lay criminal charges when corporate negligence results in a workplace death.

Despite this legal change, to date only four corporations have received a criminal conviction, and only one has been sentenced to prison.

"When criminal negligence results in a worker's death, it is a crime and should be treated that way," said USW Canada National Director Ken Neumann.

Christian Bruneau has experienced the flaws in the system first-hand. His son, Olivier Bruneau, was killed in a construction accident in Ottawa on March 23, 2016. Almost a year later, the Ministry of Labour has laid charges against Bruneau's employer, but a criminal negligence investigation by police has stalled.

"Every worker in the industry has the right to assume that he will go back home at the end of the day and look after his loved ones. This is a right," Christian Bruneau said to the crowd at the Ottawa Day of Mourning event last year.

> "Steelworkers campaigned long and hard to prevent these kinds of workplace tragedies, but if the law isn't enforced, employers can keep cutting corners and risking workers' lives."
>
> **Ken Neumann,**
> Canada National Director, United Steelworkers

"That right was compromised when the workplace was not safe. Olivier did not come back home on [March] 23rd, and the life of his family was forever devastated," he added.

"Steelworkers campaigned long and hard to prevent these kinds of workplace tragedies, but if the law isn't enforced, employers can keep cutting corners and risking workers' lives," Neumann said.

The Canadian Labour Congress and USW are calling on government to mark this year's 25th anniversary of the Westray explosion by acting now to ensure enforcement of the Westray Law.

In response to unions' call, the federal government has committed to working with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and its members, with employers, and with provincial and territorial partners on the issue. This includes doing more to ensure labour inspectors and law enforcement officials are trained in provisions of the law, and sharing best practices across jurisdictions.

In an online petition at *Remember Westray.ca*, the CLC is calling on provinces and territories to work closely with the federal government on an urgent action plan to close the enforcement gaps.

"There are clear steps our governments can take to prevent more families going through what the Bruneaus are facing," CLC president Hassan Yussuff added. ■





Top: The Canadian Labour Congress and the United Steelworkers are calling on government to mark this year's 25th anniversary of the Westray tragedy by ensuring enforcement of the Westray Law, which can hold employers accountable for workplace deaths. Bottom: Wreaths mark the National Day of Mourning for Canadian workers killed or injured on the job, Ottawa, April 28, 2016. SUPPLIED

ISLAMOPHOBIA

Standing against racism and discrimination

Unions use collective bargaining to push for fair wages and benefits, as well as advance workers' human rights and protect against discrimination.

In a recent case, a food-service subcontractor at York University in Toronto denied a supervisory position to an employee because of her Muslim practices, including the wearing of a "hijab" head scarf.

The employee filed a human rights complaint, and her union, UNITE HERE Local 75, filed a grievance. She was then awarded a supervisor's position in the bargaining unit.

"We believe this positive outcome would not have occurred had she not stood up for herself and been supported by the union," says David Sanders, organizing director of Local 75. "This past fall and winter, her and other workers' experience with racism and Islamophobia helped lead the union and campus allies to forge a strong coalition going into collective bargaining and this spring's strike.

"The employees were also making poverty wages, and we negotiated a breakthrough agreement with a $15 per hour minimum wage for all workers," he says.

Concerned that the U.S. travel ban against primarily Muslim countries has further inflamed Islamophobia, the Canadian Labour Congress and the AFL-CIO in the U.S. jointly affirmed their commitment "to ensuring that our societies are welcoming and egalitarian, and that we pursue policies that respect the dignity and rights of all working people." ■

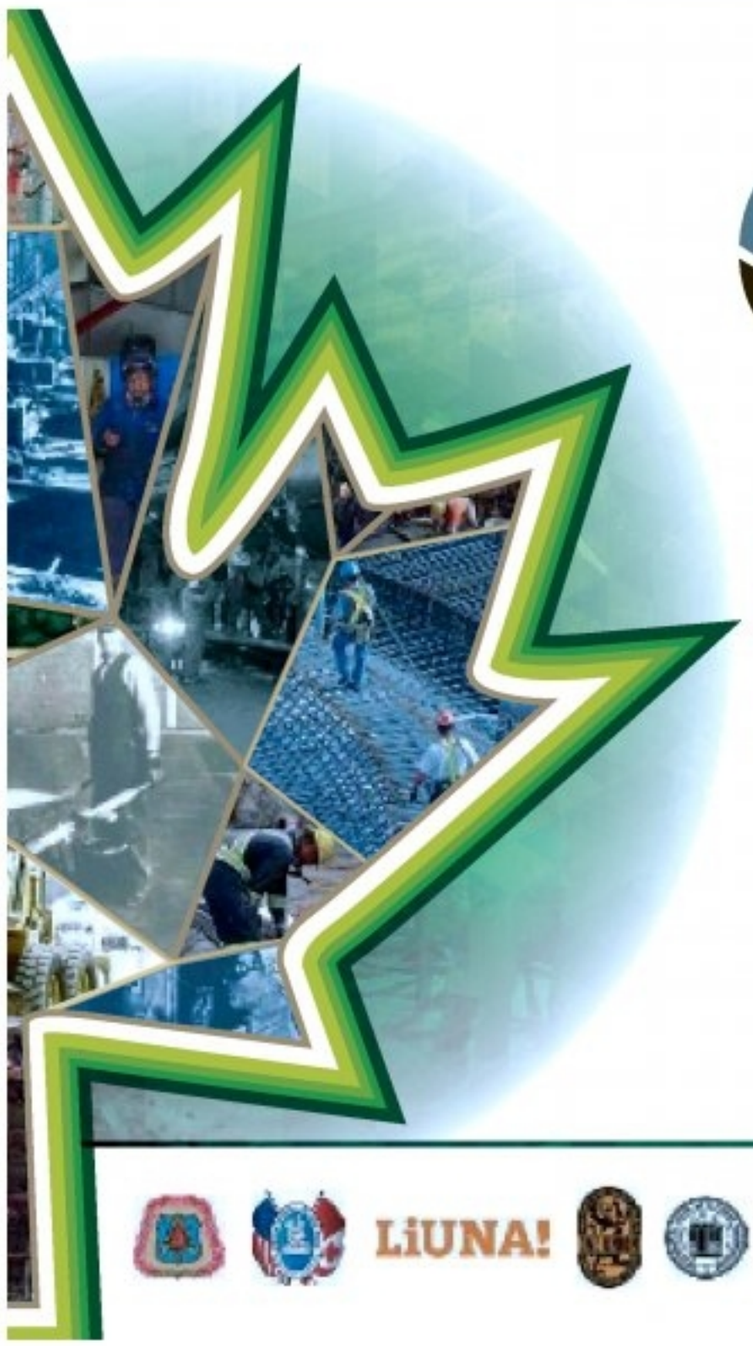
FILM

Virtual-reality film simulates refugee camp experience

Imagine living in a refugee camp in your home community. Canada's unions have offered Canadians a glimpse of that experience with a unique, immersive "Refugee Crisis" video. With a 360-degree view, the video simulates the harsh reality of being forced to flee your home as a refugee – as if it were happening in a Canadian town.
[facebook.com/fairnessworks.ca]

This online film is part of unions' ongoing work to support refugee resettlement efforts. "We felt it was important to help Canadians understand what people go through before they arrive here as refugees," says Marie Clarke Walker, executive vice president of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). "The Syrian refugees we are now taking in have lived in a war zone, which is a remote experience to most Canadians. When you can live in someone else's shoes, you develop more compassion and empathy," she adds.

Canada's unions also raised over $300,000 for refugee families, and the CLC developed a resource kit to encourage members to donate money and household items, and build friendships with refugees.



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FROM THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HELP KEEP THE LIGHTS ON.

POWER WORKERS' UNION

metro SPORTS



Hip-hop artist Travis Scott has designed the Rockets' T-shirt giveaway for Game 6 against the Spurs emblazoned with the team slogan "Run As One"

Keeping the status quo

2017 NHL PLAYOFFS
ON TO THE EASTERN FINAL

Pens advance while Caps again fall short of third round

Marc-Andre Fleury turned back the clock with a brilliant 29-save shutout, Bryan Rust and Patric Hornqvist scored and the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Washington Capitals 2-0 in Game 7 on Wednesday night to advance to the Eastern Conference final.

The defending champion Penguins are eight victories away from another Stanley Cup and will have home-ice advantage against the Ottawa Senators. The Presidents' Trophy-winning Capitals failed to get beyond the second round for the seventh time in as many chances in the Alex Ovechkin era.

Rust was again a hero in a crucial game for Pittsburgh, scoring his eighth goal in 12 career games facing elimination or with the chance to eliminate an opponent. Fleury looked like his old self from the start of the series if not his 2009 Cup run in frustrating the Capitals.

Braden Holtby made 26 saves in a losing effort.

Despite it being the second round, this Game 7 had the feel of a deciding game of the Stanley Cup Final with the top two teams in the NHL facing off. After Pittsburgh took a 3-1 series lead, Washington roared back to tie it and seemed to have all the confidence.

When the Capitals had the game's first four shots, Fleury was there to weather the storm and the Penguins responded with the next six. It took until 8:49 of the second period for Pittsburgh to silence the crowd as a failed clear by Matt Niskanen got the puck from Sidney Crosby to Jake Guentzel to Rust for his fifth goal of the playoffs.



The Penguins celebrate Bryan Rust's second-period goal on Wednesday night. PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

GAME 7 In Washington



Holtby and Fleury went save for save, with the Penguins goaltender getting the shaft of his stick on a shot by Ovechkin in the second period. It was so close Ovechkin started to raise his arms thinking he had scored, and Fleury's wide smile could be seen through his mask.

It remained a one-goal game until another failed clear by Washington's Kevin Shattenkirk and Ovechkin. The puck ended up on Hornqvist's stick, and the Swedish forward put a backhander short side on Holtby 4:14 into the third to make it 2-0.

Despite playing without top defenceman Kris Letang and starting goaltender Matt Murray all playoffs, Pittsburgh is moving on. The Pens were also without defenceman Trevor Daley before Game 6. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOXING

Montreal card has potential 'on paper'

A clash of local contenders Jean Pascal and Eleider Alvarez and a title defence by Adonis Stevenson may be just what was needed to shake Canadian pro boxing out of the doldrums.

Fans who have had little to get excited about, except perhaps David Lemieux's re-emergence as a middleweight contender, have been buying tickets for the June 3 card at Montreal's Bell Centre that will also feature welterweight Custio Clayton of Dartmouth against an as-yet unannounced opponent.

"The lineup is the best on paper since we did Pascal versus (Lucian) Bute," promoter Yvon Michel said Wednesday of the 2014 fight between former world champions from Montreal, won by Pascal. "That fight wasn't as spectacular as people expected.

"But it's a great lineup and there's also a very solid undercard. We've seen it in the sales. There are no ringside seats left. We're selling more in the stands. There will be a lot of people watching on TV as well. We have all the ingredients of a great show."

Michel has been on the defensive of late. A report last week said Clayton (11-0) is growing impatient at not getting the fights he needs to move up the rankings, while Russian-born light heavyweight Artur Beterbiev (also 11-0) has gone to court to have his contract terminated so he can find a new promoter.

"We have no problem with Custio," said Michel. "Beterbiev believes the contract is terminated. We don't agree. It's nothing personal. I have a good personal relationship with Artur, but we don't agree so someone else will make the call."

He hopes a strong fight card will get everyone excited again. THE CANADIAN PRESS



NBA PLAYOFFS WIZARDS FIND GREEN IS MEAN Celtics guard Avery Bradley scored a game-high 29 points against the Washington Wizards in Game 5 of their second-round series on Wednesday night in Boston. The Celtics cruised to a 123-101 victory to take a 3-2 series lead. MADDIE MEYER/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Arsenal creeps closer to top-4 European positions

Arsenal kept alive its ambitions of qualifying for next season's Champions League by beating Southampton 2-0 in the Premier League thanks to second-half goals by Alexis Sanchez and Olivier Giroud on Wednesday.

Arsenal is three points behind fourth-place Manchester City, and four points behind third-place Liverpool with a game in hand. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PYEONGCHANG 2018

Schuler's goal is more gold of course

Laura Schuler just bought a house in New Hampshire. She won't be living in it much this year.

Schuler will relocate to Calgary in July and begin preparing for what she and the country hope will be a fifth straight Olympic gold medal in women's hockey next year in South Korea.

Hockey Canada named the 46-year-old from Toronto head coach of the Olympic team Wednesday.

"The journey is going to be incredible and it's also going to be incredibly hard," Schuler said.

The 28 players invited to try out for the team will be announced Thursday.

Schuler is the first former player to serve as Canada's head coach. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Laura Schuler GETTY IMAGES



Custio Clayton GETTY IMAGES

Life just grand for Garcia

PGA

Masters champ enjoying spoils of his first major title

Sergio Garcia, finally a major champion, already wants to change his equipment.

It's a tiny change, and a most appropriate one.

Standing on the 15th green Wednesday at The Players Championship, the Masters champion turned to TaylorMade tour manager Keith Sbarbaro and said, "What's the ETA on the golf ball?" It will be the same ball with the same number — 49, to honour the year his mother was born.

Garcia just wants the number to be green, the colour of the jacket he won last month at Augusta National, the one he has taken everywhere.

The 37-year-old Spaniard had played 71 majors in his professional career without winning one, and to see the emotion burst out of him when he made the final birdie putt to win the Masters in a playoff over Justin Rose made it clear how much it meant to him.



Sergio Garcia, right, and Branden Grace joke around in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla, Wednesday. WARREN LITTLE/GETTY IMAGES

The four weeks that followed showed Garcia how much it meant to everyone else.

"I cried," Rory McIlroy said. "The first time I saw him was when he got into our wedding on Friday night. I gave him the biggest bear hug. Just to see what he's been through, and his struggles, and for it to be there."

72

Garcia won his first major in his 72nd attempt.

McIlroy paused and started rubbing his right arm.

"I'm getting goosebumps even talking about it," McIlroy said.

The highlight for Garcia was Santiago Bernabeu, the stadium for his beloved Real Madrid where Garcia was invited to do the ceremonial opening kickoff for El Clasico against Barcelona.

Garcia has been playing the Ryder Cup since 1999, three of them on European soil. He knows loud. After he won the Masters, he was serenaded with the constant chants of "Sergee-oh!"

"But to walk on what I think is the best stadium in the world ... and to have 90,000 people chanting your name, that was extremely special," he said. "And I was nervous. Yeah, and I was only kicking the ball 15 yards. That was very unique and something that — with many things that happened at Augusta — that I will never forget."

Life has never been more grand for Garcia. He is assured his best season ever no matter what happens the rest of the year. He is getting married in July. He is a major champion.

"He's got to walk around with a smile on his face for the next couple years," Jordan Spieth said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AARON HERNANDEZ

Money matters arise after suicide

Questions abound after a judge erased ex-NFL star Aaron Hernandez's murder conviction in a 2013 killing.

Chief among them: what, if any, wealth did the former New England Patriots tight end leave behind when he hanged himself in prison on April 19?

And could the team be back on the hook for nearly $6 million it withheld from Hernandez after he was charged in the killing and the team released him?

A lawyer who represents the family of the man Hernandez was convicted of killing says he's seeking copies of Hernandez's contract with the Patriots and grievances he filed after the team withheld a $3.25-million deferred signing bonus payment and base salary of $2.46 million.

Hernandez was acquitted in a 2012 Boston double slaying days before he killed himself. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





German Marquez tossed eight scoreless innings for the Rockies on Wednesday. MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Marquez hurts Cubs with arm and bat

German Marquez allowed three hits over eight innings and got his first major-league hit with a two-run single in the seventh to lead the Colorado Rockies over the Chicago Cubs 3-0 on Wednesday.

Marquez had a no-hit bid going until Kris Bryant's double leading off the seventh inning. He walked Kyle Schwarber in the first and retired 16 straight before Bryant's hit to left.

The 22-year-old Marquez (1-2) struck out eight by mixing in a mid-90s fastball with an assortment of breaking pitches. With two on and two outs in the seventh, Marquez broke open the game with his liner to left. The Rockies bench gave him an ovation.

WEDNESDAY In Denver

3	0
ROCKIES	CUBS

Greg Holland threw a perfect ninth for his 14th save in as many chances to help the Rockies take two of three from Chicago.

Kyle Hendricks (2-2) gave up three runs — two earned — in 6-1/3 innings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Potty mouth earns Celtics' Thomas $25K fine

Boston point guard Isaiah Thomas has been fined $25,000 for inappropriate language toward a fan during the Celtics' Game 4 loss at Washington.

The NBA announced the fine Wednesday.

Game 5 is Wednesday night in Boston. The second-round series is tied 2-2. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Right now, it's two of the teams playing some of the best basketball ... Why not want to see it again?

Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue has no objections to a third helping of Cavaliers vs. Warriors in the NBA Finals. The Cavs will play either the Celtics or the Wizards in the Eastern Conference final.

Wideout Floyd signs with Vikings, source says

A person with direct knowledge of the contract tells The Associated Press that wide receiver Michael Floyd has agreed to sign with the Minnesota Vikings.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Wednesday because the one-year deal worth $1.5 million had yet to be announced by the team.

Floyd finished last season with Super Bowl champion New England after his arrest for drunken driving and being cut by Arizona. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays' Morales day to day

Toronto Blue Jays slugger Kendrys Morales will be re-evaluated later this week after suffering a hamstring strain in Tuesday's loss to the Cleveland Indians.

Morales left the game after experiencing discomfort in his left leg when he grounded out in the fourth inning.

The 33-year-old leads the Jays with six home runs and 20 RBIs this season. He has a .244 batting average and a .727 OPS (on-base plus slugging). THE CANADIAN PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Gingery Grilled Salmon and Zucchini



PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI



Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Get your brain food with this salmon dish that is the perfect meal after a busy day when your mind is working at half capacity but dinner still needs to be made.

Ready in 55 minutes
Prep time: 25
Cook time: 35
Serves: 4

Ingredients
- 3 filets of salmon
- 2 or 3 small zucchinis
- 1 tsp grated ginger
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp rice wine vinegar
- 1 Tbsp sesame oil

Directions

1. Soak wooden skewers in water for at least 20 minutes. Whisk together the ginger, soy, vinegar and sesame. Place salmon filets in the marinade for 20 minutes

2. Remove the salmon from the marinade and cut the filets into chunks – maybe 1 x 2 inches – and set aside.

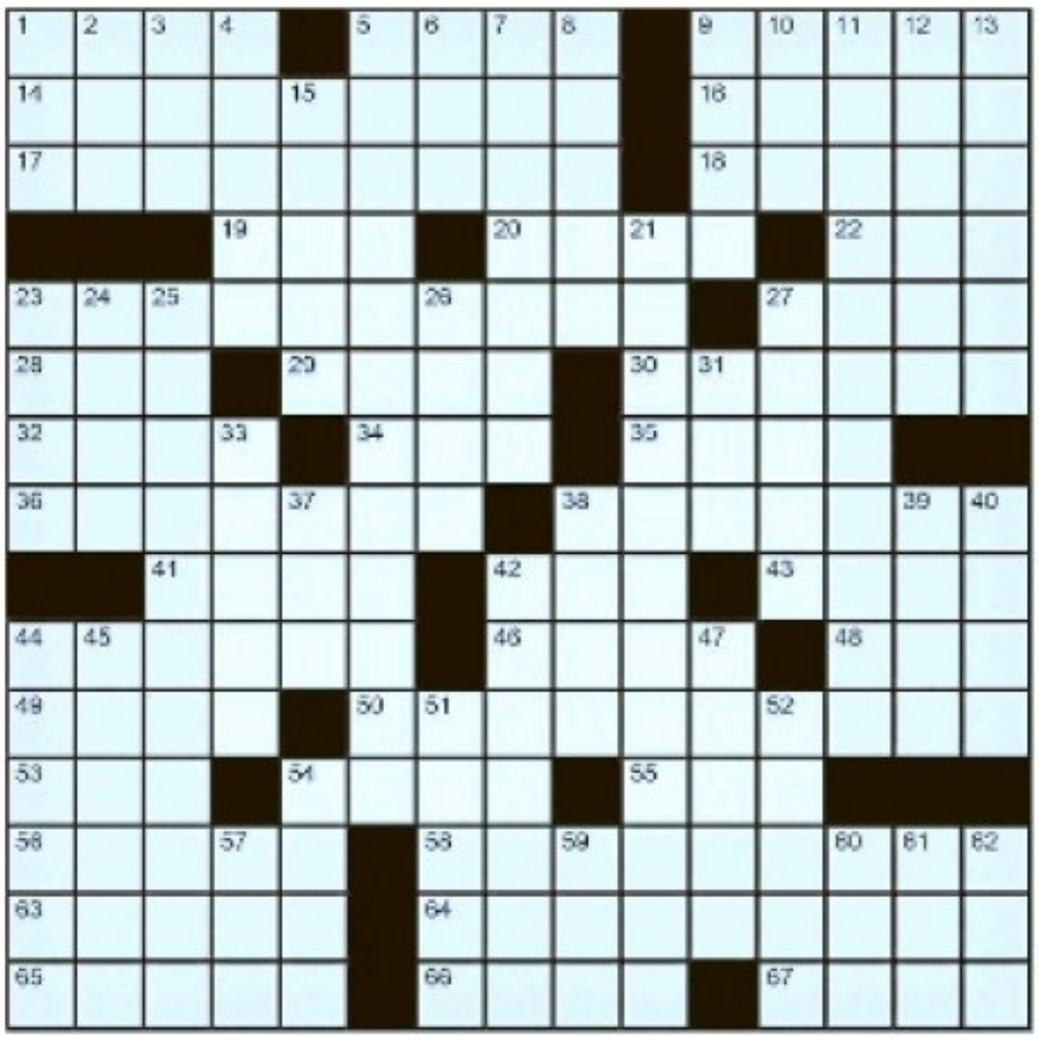
3. Slice the zucchini into rings and toss in the marinade quickly. Thread the fish and veggies onto the wooden skewers.

4. Preheat your grill or grill pan to medium high and wipe the grill with oil. Place the skewers over the heat and give each side about three minutes before turning.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Org. on Discovery Channel's "Mayday"
5. Seasonal bugs
9. Chef Mr. Lee
14. 1879 novel by Victorian writer George Meredith: 2 wds.
16. Dried plum
17. Duck-billed Late Cretaceous herbivore that once roamed #25-Down
18. Songbird sort
19. Mr. Begley Jr.'s
20. Oohs' pals
22. Cacharel perfume
23. "You may be dismissed now.": 3 wds.
27. Popeye's sweetie Olive, and others
28. Mr. Harrison
29. Airline to Israel: 2 wds.
30. The Clash's "Rock the _"
32. "How _ _ Your Mother"
34. 1997 Sugar Ray chart-topper
35. "2001: A Space Odyssey" (1968) star Mr. Dullea
36. Shipping sea sludge, say: 2 wds.
38. Implore
41. Yesterday: French
42. Stallion's snack
43. One-of-a-kind
44. 'Nothing' in Rome
46. Dada artist Jean, and family
48. Mary _ (Cosmetics company)
49. '80s hit: "In _ _ Country"
50. Telethons, when carried by multiple networks
53. Blondie singer Ms. Harry, to pals
54. Bygone Ford cars
55. Swiss river
56. Ms. Ryan of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
58. Super-small
63. De _ (Movie star Robert, and surnamesakes)
64. Required
65. High wave
66. Vexed vocalization!
67. Formerly moments of respite: 2 wds.
12. 7UP 'The _'
13. Bring up those same old complaints
15. 'In _ _ Trust'
21. Jet or Oiler: 2 wds.
23. Deuce-ace
24. Prefix to 'sphere'
25. High Arctic island located in Nunavut: 2 wds.
26. Composer Mr. Schifrin
27. Wickerwork material
31. Old Rome bronze money
33. Connecting/securing
37. Receive
38. Alberta: _ _ Ranch National Historic Site of Canada
39. Suffix with 'Pluto' (Rich ruler)
40. Canadian luggage brand
42. Cage's wheel-runner
44. Chuck Berry title song lady
45. Airline of Spain
47. Strikebreakers, in slang
51. Picking from a police lineup
52. Come about
54. _-majeste (High treason)
57. And not
59. PC monitor
60. Sailor, Jack-_
61. Dads to Jr.s
62. St. John's International Airport code

DOWN
1. Utmost
2. Jennifer Lopez's 'J to _ L-O!'
3. But, Latin-style
4. Prince's "Raspberry _"
5. #25-Down's paleobotany paradise: 2 wds.
6. _ Fail (Irish coronation stone)
7. Most times
8. Valued violin [abbr.]
9. Summertime lotion nos.
10. William Tell's canton
11. Cloudy day's

✷ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Communicating with others, especially with siblings and relatives, is difficult today because you're not sure what you should say. When in doubt, say nothing.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This is a poor day to make important financial decisions, because your information might not be correct. It's possible that someone is deceiving you. Be careful.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You feel tired and lethargic today. Don't worry, because we all have days like this. Don't be hard on yourself or judgmental of others.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Something going on behind the scenes worries you today. The strange thing is that you might not even know what it is. Alot of people feel this way. No worries.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will find it difficult to assert yourself in a group situation today. Don't worry about this. It's probably best to sit back and see which way the wind blows. Play it safe.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is not a good day to be aggressive when dealing with bosses, parents and VIPs. There's too much confusion. Plus, at heart, you do not feel fully confident. Sit this one out.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't get ensnared in arguments about religion and politics today. You might not be sure how to respond or what to endorse. Take it easy.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Disputes about shared property, inheritances and anything that you own jointly with others will be confusing today. You won't properly defend your best interests. Avoid these discussions.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Discussions with friends and partners are discouraging today. That's because you feel like you don't know what's really going on. Don't worry — you are not alone.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Do not throw your weight around at work today — there's too much confusion, and people are unsure of what to do and how to do it. Sit back and go with the flow.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a classic day for confusion when dealing with romantic partners. Remember: Unexpressed expectations almost always lead to disappointment.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Be patient with and tolerant of family members today, because misunderstandings will be rife. You might feel let down by others. It's very likely that they feel the same way.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

5				2				1
			9		1			
		9				4		
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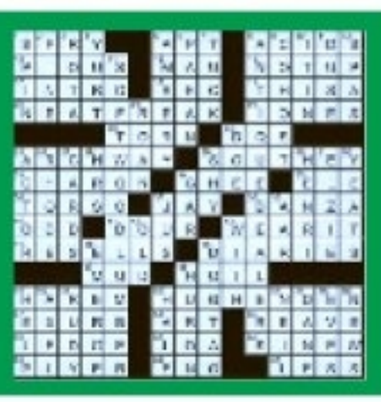
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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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7	2	1	4	9	5	3	6	8
4	8	6	3	2	1	5	7	9
3	5	9	7	6	8	1	2	4
1	6	7	8	3	9	4	5	2
2	3	4	6	5	7	8	9	1
5	9	8	1	4	2	7	3	6
9	7	5	2	1	4	6	8	3
8	1	3	9	7	6	2	4	5
6	4	2	5	8	3	9	1	7

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